



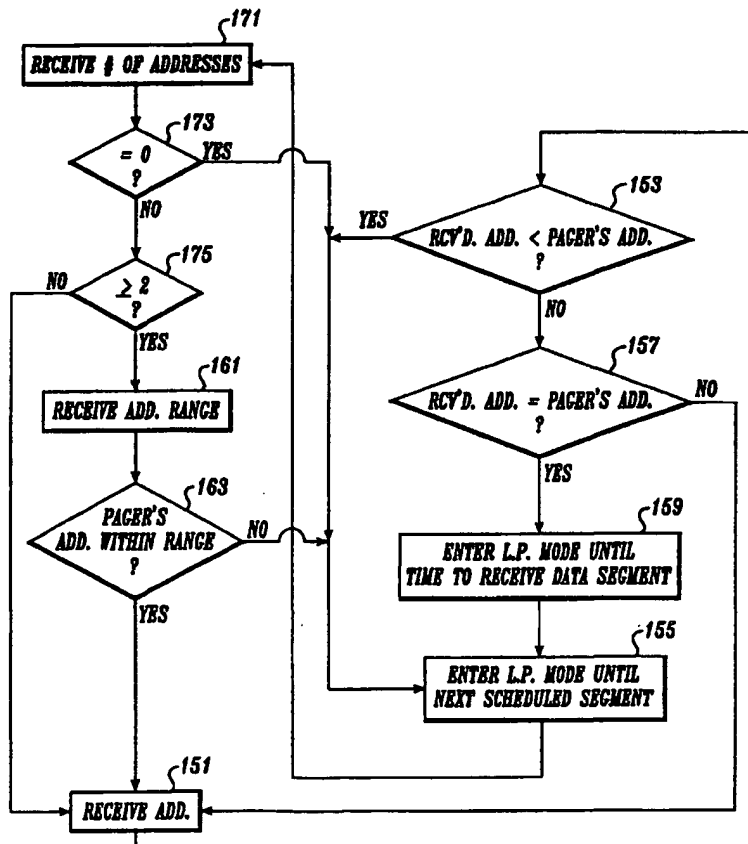
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONSERVING POWER IN A PAGER

## (57) Abstract

A paging protocol includes header synchronization and system information segments containing information that allows a pager to conserve power. These segments can indicate a schedule of transmissions, and the channels of other transmissions. The pager can use this information to reduce the time the pager is in a high-power mode (81, 83, 85). In addition, the addresses are ordered so that the pager can more quickly determine whether a page is addressed to that particular pager (171, 157, 159, 155). Further, the pager can activate circuitry in a sequenced manner to reduce peak power usage (195, 197, 199). The transmissions on different channels are synchronized in an offset manner so that the pager can scan one channel and switch to a next channel and immediately receive the start of a frame (221, 222, 223).



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## **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONSERVING POWER IN A PAGER**

### **Cross-Referenced to Related Applications**

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/067,465 filed December 4, 1997.

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### **Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to paging systems and, more particularly, to pagers used in paging systems. Still more particularly, the present invention is related to methods and apparatus for conserving power in such pagers.

### **Background**

10

Paging service providers (hereinafter "providers") implement paging systems to provide brief messages to paging service subscribers (hereinafter "subscribers"). FIG. 1 is a simplified diagram illustrative of a paging system 10. Generally, a person (i.e., the caller) who wishes to contact the subscriber may call the subscriber's pager telephone number using telephone 11 and initiate a page containing a brief message  
15 that is broadcast to the subscriber. The telephone call is routed through the publicly switched telephone network (PSTN) 12 to a paging terminal (PT) 13. The caller can then initiate a page, which PT 13 then provides to a number of paging stations (PSs) 14<sub>1</sub>-14<sub>N</sub> to transmit the page in a broadcast fashion. The paging system

typically has a service area in which the subscriber can accurately receive the page. The subscriber then receives the page through a portable remote receiver unit (pager) 15, which receives pages and notifies the subscriber upon receipt of a page. Typically, a pager has a unique address that the pager searches for in the broadcasted  
5 pages to find pages intended for the subscriber. The subscriber would then generally keep the pager nearby during the times the subscriber wants to receive pages.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrative of pager 15. Typically, pager 15 includes a battery 20 or other energy storage device to provide power to operate the circuitry of pager 15. A pager generally includes a central processing unit (CPU) 21 to execute  
10 software or firmware in operating the pager, a clock generator (CG) 22 to generate accurate clock signals used by CPU 21 and other circuitry, a memory 23 to store information, a display 24 (e.g., an LCD) to display alphanumeric messages, such as telephone numbers or short written messages), and a receiver 25 to receive pages broadcast by the paging system. Two-way pagers may include an input/output (I/O)  
15 device 26 (e.g., alphanumeric pushbuttons to input alphanumeric messages) and a transmitter 27 to send the message back to the PT 13. Digital voice pagers may include a voice synthesizer 28 or other conversion device used in converting a received voice page into an analog acoustic signal that the subscriber can hear. Two-way voice pagers may include a microphone for inputting voice messages to be  
20 transmitted back to the PT. Because battery 20 provides all of the power used by pager 15, power conservation becomes an important issue.

FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrative of cycle partitioning in an exemplary paging protocol. A paging protocol is typically partitioned into a number of cycles. As shown in FIG. 4, each cycle is partitioned into a number of frames. Typically, a frame  
25 would contain a batch of pages addressed to a large number of pagers. A frame would be partitioned into a number of segments, as shown in FIG. 5. A frame might start with a header synchronization (HS) segment, followed by a system information (SI) segment, followed by addresses and data. In particular, a first address (A1) and a first data (D1) portion would form a first page, while a second address (A2) and a  
30 second data (D2) portion would form a second page, and so on. In this type of

partitioning, a pager would typically receive a large portion of the frame to determine if any of the addresses matched the address of that particular pager. If the pager finds its address in the group of received addresses, then the pager receives the corresponding data portion. It will be appreciated that the pager consumes a significant amount of power in receiving and processing these pages.

As mentioned above, reducing power consumption in a pager is an important concern because pagers are typically battery-powered and, thus, have a limited power supply. In addition to the power dissipated in receiving and processing pages, another significant source of power consumption in a pager is in initially "acquiring" a channel and a time slot in the channel. In acquisition, a pager generally has to scan through one or more channels for transmissions that the pager can recognize and then detect pages addressed to that particular pager. This process causes the pager to consume a relatively large amount of power. In addition, this process can be exacerbated in paging systems that use multiple protocols in a single channel and/or have several channels supporting a particular protocol. Further, the subscriber may travel out of the service area, which prevents the pager from detecting any recognized channels. Accordingly, there is a need for a paging system that reduces pager power dissipation in processing pages and acquiring channels.

#### Summary

In accordance with the present invention, methods and apparatus for conserving power in a pager are provided. The transmissions are partitioned into cycles, which are partitioned into frames, which are partitioned into segments. Further, some of the segments are partitioned into address and data blocks. The address blocks include a number of addresses, and the data blocks include a number of data portions. An address and corresponding data portion form a page. In addition, the pager may be configured to receive transmissions over several channels.

In one aspect of the present invention, the pager includes circuitry to detect a header synchronization (HS) segment indicative of the protocol of the rest of the transmission. In a further refinement, the HS segment is generated to include frequency invariant signals so that the pager need not perform a frequency

synchronization process, thereby saving power. The frequency invariant signals can be chirp signals that are essentially frequency invariant within the range of interest under all expected frequency offset conditions (e.g., Doppler shift in the channel and local oscillator free running inaccuracy in the pager receiver). Consequently, if the  
5 HS segment does not match the pager's protocol, the pager can quickly determine this condition and not receive the rest of the transmission, which also saves power.

In another aspect of the present invention, the pager receives a system information (SI) segment that contains information indicative of the schedule or time slot of transmissions with the same protocol as the SI segment's protocol. The pager  
10 can then enter a low-power mode between the expected transmission time slots to save power.

In still another aspect of the present invention, upon being switched on, the pager is configured to search the last channel and time slot that the pager used before being switched off. This scheme saves power because it is likely that the paging  
15 system will use the same channel to send pages to a particular pager. If no matching transmissions are detected, the pager then performs a normal channel acquisition process.

In yet another aspect of the present invention, the pager is configured to detect and store active channels (i.e., channels having transmissions according to the  
20 pager's protocol) in a memory. During subsequent reacquisition processes, the pager would search only the stored channels. The pager would initiate a normal initial acquisition process if the stored channels were no longer active.

In a further aspect of the present invention, the paging system is configured to transmit page addresses in descending order, with the segment number that the  
25 address was transmitted in representing the lower order bits of the address. Thus the address is transmitted using a smaller number of bits and requires less processing on the part of the pager. In addition, because the order of addresses is known, the pager can stop receiving addresses once an address that is lower than the pager's address has been received. In a further refinement, each segment can include the range of  
30 addresses that are being transmitted in the segment. If the pager's address is not

within the range, the pager can immediately enter the low-power mode without receiving any more addresses from that segment. In still a further refinement, each segment can include the number of addresses that are being transmitted in the segment. If the number is zero, the pager can immediately enter the low-power mode.

- 5 If the number is one or two, the pager can skip receiving the range of addresses and just receive the actual addresses.

In a still further aspect of the present invention, the pager is configured to receive and store an entire block of addresses, as opposed to receiving and processing the addresses as they are received. The pager then performs a binary search on the  
10 stored addresses to detect whether the pager's address is in the block. Because a binary search is significantly more efficient on average than searching each address, the pager saves power. In a further refinement, the circuitry of the pager can be powered on in sequence to reduce the peak power usage. Thus, the receiver circuitry is then powered down after the addresses and/or data are received and stored. Then  
15 the processing circuitry is powered on to process the stored addresses and/or data. The processing circuitry is then powered down before powering up the next subsystem, and so on. Reducing the peak power usage helps preserve battery life. In still a further refinement, the paging system will provide random data so as to achieve continuous transmission. In this manner, the pager will always detect an active  
20 channel during the reacquisition process (if in the service area), thereby avoiding the need to perform the more power-consuming initial acquisition process.

In yet a further aspect of the present invention, the pager is configured to increase the duration of the low-power mode after a search results in the detection of no active channels. In this case, it is assumed that the pager is out of the service area  
25 and thus will not be able to detect any active channels until the pager returns to the service area. Thus, by increasing the duration of the low-power mode between searches, the pager will perform fewer searches in a given amount of time, while giving the user time to return to the service area before powering up, thereby conserving power.

Still further, in another aspect of the present invention, the paging system is configured to synchronize transmissions of a particular protocol between channels in an offset manner. In particular, the transmissions are timed so that, after a pager scans one channel (e.g., receives the HS segment), the pager can switch to a next  
5 channel and immediately receive the HS segment of a frame without waiting. This scheme reduces the time the pager is in the normal receiving mode to receive a particular set of information between channels, thereby saving power.

In addition, in another aspect of the present invention, the pager performs a search process that is first narrowing so as to detect and monitor only active channels  
10 at a minimal search rate and search duration. If no active channels are detected, the pager starts expanding the search in stages to include other channels, longer search durations and/or more frequent time intervals. Then if no active channels are detected, the pager is assumed to be out of the service area, and the search process is slowed down.

Another aspect of the present invention is directed toward pagers that have  
15 light traffic. The pager monitors active channels and records the time of each received page addressed for that particular pager. If the pager does not receive a page after a predetermined time period, the pager increases the duration of the low-power mode by a predetermined amount of time. This scheme saves power for pagers  
20 that do not receive many pages. The paging system also keeps track of the last page to each pager so as to keep track of how long each pager will enter the low-power mode between periods of activity. The paging system can then appropriately schedule pages to each pager.

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

25 The foregoing aspects and many of the attendant advantages of this invention will become more readily appreciated by reference to the following detailed description, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings listed below.

FIG. 1 is a simplified diagram illustrative of a paging system.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrative of a pager.



FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrative of cycle partitioning in a paging protocol.

FIG. 4 is a diagram illustrative of frame partitioning of a cycle.

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrative of address and data partitioning of a frame.

FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrative of segment ordering in a frame, according to  
5 one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrative of a signal used to indicate a header  
synchronization (HS) segment, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager using a received HS segment in  
channel acquisition, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

10 FIG. 9 is a diagram illustrative of system information (SI) partitioning,  
according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 10 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager using a received SI segment in  
channel acquisition, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

15 FIG. 11 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager operating in a channel  
acquisition process, according to another embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 12 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager operating in a reacquisition  
process, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 13 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager operating in a reacquisition  
process, according to another embodiment of the present invention.

20 FIG. 14 is a diagram illustrative of a pager address, according to one  
embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 15 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager in receiving an address block,  
according to one embodiment of the present invention.

25 FIG. 16 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager in receiving an address block,  
according to another embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 17 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager in receiving an address block,  
according to yet another embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 18 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager in processing addresses,  
according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 19 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager performing power sequencing, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 20 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager in scheduling search times, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

5        FIG. 21 is a flow diagram illustrative of a continuous transmission paging system, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 22 is a timing diagram illustrative of channel synchronization in a paging system, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

10       FIG. 23 is a diagram illustrative of a pager search process, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 24 is a flow diagram illustrative of an extended low-power mode for low-traffic pagers, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

#### Detailed Description

15       FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrative of segment ordering in a frame, according to one embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, a frame is divided into a header synchronization (HS) segment, a system information (SI) segment, and segments  $S_1$ - $S_Y$ . Each segment  $S_i$  of segments  $S_1$ - $S_Y$  has an address block  $A_i$  and a data block  $D_i$ , where  $Y$  represents an integer greater than or equal to one, and where  $i$  represents an integer between one and  $Y$ . Further, each pair of blocks  $A_i$  and  $D_i$  have  
20       up to  $N$  pages (i.e.,  $N$  addresses and  $N$  corresponding data portions or subsegments), where  $N$  represents an integer greater than or equal to one. Segments  $S_1$ - $S_Y$  are sometimes referred to herein as page segments  $S_1$ - $S_Y$ .

In one embodiment, a segment  $S_i$  may be formed by an address block  $A_i$  having addresses  $A_{i1}$ - $A_{iN}$  of 32 bits each, followed by a data block  $D_i$  having data  
25       portions  $D_{i1}$ - $D_{iN}$  of up to 217 bits each. Further, in this embodiment a frame may have sixteen segments  $S_i$ , with sixteen pages in each segment (i.e.,  $1 \leq S_i$ ,  $N \leq 16$ ). Thus, a frame in this embodiment may contain 256 pages. Grouping the addresses at the beginning of a segment  $S_i$  allows the pager to conserve power because the pager can check all of the addresses in the address block of the segment without also having  
30       to receive the corresponding data portions in the corresponding data block  $D_i$ . If the

5 pager does not detect its address, the pager does not need to receive the data portions and can enter a low-power mode to conserve power. It will be appreciated that in other embodiments, the address and data segments can have a different number of pages than described above for this embodiment. Likewise, different numbers of bits may be used for the addresses and data portions in other embodiments.

FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrative of a signal used in an HS segment, according to one embodiment of the present invention. Ideally, the signal used in the HS segment is frequency invariant in the frequency range of interest under the previously described frequency offset conditions expected for typical paging applications. In this  
10 embodiment, the HS signal is generated as a pattern of signals having their frequencies swept as a function of time (sometimes referred to as chirps). Curve 71 in FIG. 7 illustrates a chirp starting at the start of the HS segment (i.e.,  $t_{hs}$ ) with an approximately linear increase in frequency, from frequency  $f_{c-\Delta}$  to frequency  $f_{c+\Delta}$  where  $f_c$  is the center frequency of a channel. In one embodiment,  $\Delta$  is equal to about  
15 8900 Hz, so that the chirp stays within the out-of-channel noise limits set by government regulations. A subsequent chirp 72 begins after chirp 71 in a substantially identical manner. In one embodiment, the HS segment includes fifty chirps. In other embodiments, a different number of chirps may be used to generate an HS segment, or different chirp formats (e.g., nonlinear frequency sweeps or decreasing frequency  
20 sweeps) or combinations of chirp formats may be used to generate an HS segment. This type of header synchronization may not be part of the normal modulation symbol constellation (e.g., 16 QAM, etc.) and appears invariant with respect to the frequency offset caused by Doppler shift in the channel and local oscillator free running inaccuracy in the pager receiver.

25 In another embodiment, other symbol patterns may be chosen that use constellation points in the complex domain (can be the constellation points of the modulation scheme, but this is not required) to achieve the same frequency-invariant characteristic as chirp patterns. That is, patterns other than chirps may be used, provided they are substantially frequency invariant with respect to frequency offset in  
30 the channel or receiver's local oscillator. Consequently, the pager need not be

synchronized with the carrier frequency of the PSs (see FIG. 1). Because the frequency synchronization process requires time and processing, this chirp HS technique allows the pager to conserve power. One embodiment of this HS detection scheme is disclosed in more detail in co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/086,794, titled "Header Synchronization Detector."

FIG. 8 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager (not shown) using a received HS to acquire a channel, according to one embodiment of the present invention. In light of this disclosure, those skilled in the art of pagers can implement without undue experimentation a computer program that the pager will execute to perform the process illustrated in FIG. 8. In this embodiment, the pager is similar to pager 15 (FIG. 2) except that the pager is configured to receive and process HS chirps.

In a step 81, the pager monitors a channel for an HS portion of the protocol. Once an HS portion containing chirps is detected, in a step 83 the pager determines whether the received HS corresponds to the paging protocol that the pager is configured to receive. If the received HS matches the pager's protocol, the pager performs a step 85 in which the pager receives the rest of the frame. However, if in step 83 the received HS does not match the pager's protocol, the pager does not demodulate the frame. By not demodulating the frame, the pager conserves power by avoiding the need to operate the synchronization and demodulation circuitry of its receiver. The pager then returns to step 81 to monitor the next frame.

Returning to step 81, if the pager does not detect an HS matching the pager's protocol, in a step 88 the pager checks whether an entire cycle had been monitored without detecting a matching HS. If no matching HS was detected within an entire cycle of the channel, the pager can then eliminate the channel from future reacquisition processes because, in normal operation, if the channel was configured to support multiple protocols including the pager's protocol, the paging system would send at least one frame of the protocol per cycle.

FIG. 9 is a diagram illustrative of system information (SI) partitioning, according to one embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the SI segment contains information regarding which protocol or protocols are supported by

the particular channel, and the time or times within each cycle that transmissions for each protocol are scheduled. The times of the transmissions can be provided indirectly by listing the frames or ranges of frames that will be transmitted according to a given protocol.

5           In another embodiment, the SI segment includes information regarding the current cycle, frame number, date, and time. For example, in one embodiment: the first four bits of the SI segment indicate the current cycle number; the next seven bits indicate the frame number; the next four bits represent the month; the next six bits represent the day; and the next six bits represent the hour. The minute and second  
10   values can be determined from the cycle and frame values. The information contained in the SI segment can be used by the pager as described below in conjunction with FIG. 10. The SI segment includes other information in addition to the information described, but this other information is omitted for clarity as not being germane to the invention. Of course, in other embodiments, different numbers of bits may be used to  
15   provide the cycle, frame, date, or time information.

FIG. 10 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager using a received SI segment in channel acquisition, according to one embodiment of the present invention. In a step 101, the pager begins monitoring a specific transmission channel. After determining that the channel does support transmissions in the pager's protocol (e.g.,  
20   using the HS segment), the pager performs the frequency synchronization process. Then, in a step 103, the pager receives and processes the SI segment to extract the system information. In a next step 105, the pager stores in a memory corresponding to memory 23 (FIG. 2) the times scheduled for matching protocol transmissions. Because the pager now "knows" when to expect transmissions in the pager's protocol,  
25   the pager can perform a step 107 and power up to receive transmissions only at the scheduled times. This scheme helps minimize the time that the pager is actually powering its receiver circuitry, thereby saving power.

Moreover, in a further refinement of this embodiment, the schedule of transmission times may include the schedule of transmissions for an entire hour. In  
30   this refinement, the pager may then receive a SI segment at the beginning of each hour

to update the stored schedule of transmission times. A two-way pager may be required to check the SI segment immediately prior to transmitting to ensure that the pager has up-to-date system timing that will help the pager avoid interfering with transmissions from other two-way pagers.

5 In yet another refinement, the SI segment may include information indicating additional channels that the paging system may be using to transmit pages with the same protocol as the currently received SI segment. The pager would then store the channels and limit future channel acquisitions and reacquisitions to these stored channels, which allows the pager to avoid consuming power in searching channels that  
10 the paging system does not use to transmit pages with the pager's protocol.

FIG. 11 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager performing a channel acquisition process, according to another embodiment of the present invention. In this alternative embodiment, when switched on, the pager is configured to "wake up" from the low-power mode at predetermined intervals and then attempt to acquire a  
15 channel. More specifically, the pager has at least a normal-power mode and a low-power mode. In the normal-power mode, the pager provides power to all of the operating circuitry as needed for activities such as receiving, processing, and transmitting (in two-way pagers) paging signals. In contrast, the pager powers down most of the pager's circuitry in the low-power mode. Typically, the pager's timing and  
20 control circuits (e.g., a clock generator) remain powered, while the other circuitry, such as the receiver, volatile memory, transmitter, etc., are powered down. In this embodiment, the CPU includes a model H8 processor, available from Hitachi, which also has a low-power mode. Of course, any suitable microprocessor or microcontroller may be used in other embodiments.

25 Referring to FIG. 11, after the pager enters the low-power mode in a step 110, the pager resets a wake-up timer with the predetermined time in a step 113. The pager includes a continuous clock generator so that the wake-up timer operates while the pager is in the low-power mode. Preferably, the clock generator has an accuracy of about three ppm. Then in a step 115, the expiration of the timer causes the pager's  
30 CPU to enter the normal-power mode at the predetermined time. In a step 117, the

pager determines whether the user has switched the pager off. If the pager is switched off, the pager returns to step 113 and resets the wake-up timer without powering up the pager's receiver circuitry. However, if the pager has not been switched off, the pager performs a channel acquisition process during a step 119.

5 Alternatively, the pager may attempt a channel reacquisition process, as described below in conjunction with FIGS. 12 and 13.

FIG. 12 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager operating in a reacquisition process after being turned off, according to one embodiment of the present invention. The pager enters an off state 120 after being switched off by the subscriber or user.

10 For example, the subscriber may switch off the pager when the subscriber will not be carrying the pager or does not wish to be disturbed with a page. In this embodiment, the pager includes a nonvolatile memory (e.g., an EEPROM) in which the pager stores the channel and time slot of the pager's last reception.

When the subscriber again wishes to receive pages, in a next step 121, the subscriber turns on the pager. In a step 123, the pager attempts to receive transmissions using the channel and time slot last used to receive a transmission. The pager retrieves this channel and time slot information from the nonvolatile memory. However, if the pager does not detect any matching transmissions (i.e., transmissions using the pager's protocol), the pager then performs an initial channel acquisition

15 process, such as described above in conjunction with FIG. 8. Alternatively, the pager may make a predetermined number of attempts to detect matching transmissions before performing step 125. This alternative embodiment is useful in cases where the pager is temporarily located in a poor reception area (e.g., due to geography, buildings, etc.). Then, when the subscriber changes locations, the pager may receive

20 transmissions in one of the later attempts.

FIG. 13 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager performing initial acquisition, according to one embodiment of the present invention. This embodiment can be advantageously used in paging systems that can transmit pages of a single protocol over several channels. In a step 131, the pager tunes in and scans a channel to detect

25 whether there are any transmissions with the pager's protocol. In one embodiment,

30

the pager monitors a channel for a frame length. In this scheme, the pager is assured of receiving at least an HS and a SI segment, as described above in conjunction with FIG. 6. Thus, the pager will receive information of the protocol being used. In embodiments in which the HS and SI segments do not provide such information, the  
5 pager may monitor a channel for an entire cycle to detect whether the pager's protocol is used on that channel.

In a next step 132, if the protocol is detected in a transmission, the pager then stores information identifying the channel in a memory. Preferably, the pager stores this information in a nonvolatile memory so that the channel information is retained  
10 when the pager is shut off or enters the low-power mode. However, if the protocol is not detected in the channel, the pager does not store the channel information.

In a next step 135, the pager then determines whether all of the channels that the pager can receive have been scanned. If not, the pager performs a step 137 to change to a next unscanned channel. The pager then returns to step 131. In this  
15 manner, all of the channels that the pager can receive are scanned, and the particular channels that are used to transmit pages with the pager's protocol are stored. Then as shown in a step 139, during subsequent reacquisition processes the pager searches only the recorded channels, thereby saving power by not searching "unused" channels.

FIG. 14 is a diagram illustrative of a pager address, according to one  
20 embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the paging system uses a unique z-bit address for each pager, where z represents an integer greater than four. However, the lower four bits are not included in the transmitted address because the segment (i.e., S1 through SY in FIG. 6) of the frame defines these lower order bits. That is, when Y is sixteen, the segment in which the address is transmitted implies the  
25 lower four bits of each address. Accordingly, a pager can be configured to receive only during the segment corresponding to the lower four bits of the pager's address. Thus, the pager can save power by not receiving or processing the addresses transmitted in non-corresponding segments.

Alternatively, the segment number (i.e., the segment in which the address was  
30 transmitted) can be used to imply any group of bits. For example, the segment



number can be used to define the most significant  $M$  bits of the addresses in that particular segment, where  $Y$  is equivalent to  $2^M$ . Still further, those skilled in the art will appreciate that  $Y$  need not be a power of two, as long as  $M$  is selected so that  $Y$  can be represented in binary form with  $M$  bits.

5           FIG. 15 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager in receiving an address block of a segment, according to one embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the paging system transmits addresses in decreasing order within a segment. In a step 151, the pager receives an address. Then in a next step 153, the pager compares the received address with the pager's address. Because the paging  
10       system sends addresses in decreasing order, if the received address is less than the pager's address, then none of the subsequent addresses in the segment and frame can correspond to this particular pager. Consequently, if the received address is lower than the pager's address, the pager performs a step 155 during which the pager enters the low-power mode. In this embodiment, the pager is configured to store the times  
15       of when the next segments will be transmitted with the pager's protocol (described above in conjunction with FIG. 10). The pager saves power by staying in the low-power mode until the next segment with the pager's protocol will be transmitted. After performing step 155, the pager then returns to step 151 to receive the next address segment.

20           On the other hand, if the received address is not less than the pager's address, the pager determines whether the received address is equal to the pager's address in a step 157. If the address is not equal to the pager's address, then the received address will be greater than the pager's address. Consequently, a subsequent address may match the pager's address, so the pager returns to step 151.

25           If the received address matches the pager's address, the pager performs a step 159 during which the pager enters a low-power mode until the corresponding data block is transmitted, thereby saving power. More particularly, in one embodiment the address block includes information indicating when the corresponding data will be transmitted. The pager then wakes up at the appropriate  
30       time to receive the corresponding data. After receiving the corresponding data, the

pager then performs step 155 to enter the low-power mode until the next scheduled segment is to be received.

FIG. 16 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager receiving an address segment, according to another embodiment of the present invention. This embodiment is substantially similar to the embodiment of FIG. 15, but includes additional steps 161 and 163. Prior to performing step 151 as described above in conjunction with FIG. 15, in step 161 the pager receives the range of addresses, which is included in the address segment. In particular for this embodiment, the smallest address and the largest address for the pages to be transmitted in the current frame are provided in a range section of the address segment.

In a step 163, the pager determines whether the pager's address is within the range of addresses. If not, the pager proceeds to step 155. After performing step 155, the pager returns to step 161 (instead of step 151 as in the embodiment of FIG. 15). Otherwise in this embodiment, the pager performs steps 151-159 (odd), as described above in conjunction with FIG. 15.

FIG. 17 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager in receiving an address block of a segment, according to yet another embodiment of the present invention. This embodiment is substantially similar to the embodiment of FIG. 16, but includes additional steps 171, 173, and 175. Prior to performing step 161, as described above in conjunction with FIG. 16, the pager performs step 171 during which the pager receives the number of addresses to be transmitted in the current segment. In this embodiment, the number of addresses to be transmitted in the segment is included in the address block of the segment.

In step 173, the pager determines whether the number of addresses is zero. If there are no addresses, the pager then performs step 155 (as described above). After performing step 155, the pager returns to step 171 (instead of step 161 as in the embodiment of FIG. 16). However, if the number of addresses is not zero, in step 175 the pager determines whether the number of addresses is greater than or equal to two. If not (i.e., either one or two), the pager proceeds to steps 151-159 (odd) to receive and process the addresses. More particularly, the pager skips

receiving the range because receiving one or two addresses has about the same efficiency as receiving the address range. Further, to save power, the paging system may dispense with transmitting the address range if only one or two addresses are to be transmitted.

5        If the number of addresses is greater than two, then the pager proceeds to step 161. Except for returning to step 171 from step 155, the pager performs steps 161, 163, and 151-159 (odd), as described above in conjunction with FIG. 16. Although the embodiments of FIGS. 15-17 are for paging systems' addresses transmitted in decreasing order, in light of this disclosure, those skilled in the art of  
10    paging systems can modify these embodiments without undue experimentation for use with paging systems that broadcast the addresses in increasing order.

FIG. 18 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager in processing addresses, according to one embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, for each segment, the paging system broadcasts an address block followed by a corresponding  
15    data block (see, e.g., FIG. 6). The addresses are in decreasing order in the address block. In a step 181, the pager receives the entire block of addresses and stores the block in a memory. In a next step 183, the pager determines whether the pager's address is within the range of addresses of the received block. The address range can be determined from either (i) the first and last address information in the address  
20    block or (ii) by comparing the pager's address with the first and last addresses of the actual received address block. If the pager's address is not within the address range, the pager jumps to step 155 (as described above in conjunction with FIG. 15).

However, if the pager's address is within the address range, the pager executes a binary search algorithm in a next step 183. For example, the pager would first  
25    compare the pager's address with the address in the middle of the received address block. If the pager's address is lower, then the pager's address would be in the lower half of the received address block if that particular pager is addressed at all. The pager compares the pager's address to the middle address of the lower half, thereby cutting the remaining block of addresses in half again. This process continues until  
30    the pager's address matches one of the received addresses or is outside of the range of

the remaining block. The binary search ensures that the maximum number of address comparisons is limited to  $n$ , where  $n$  represents an integer greater than one and where the number of addresses is between  $2^{n-1}$  and  $2^n$ . This scheme saves power because the address block is searched efficiently.

5           FIG. 19 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager performing power sequencing, according to one embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the pager is implemented so that circuitry can be independently powered on and off. For example, the receiver, transmitter, volatile memory, or voice synthesizer of a pager may be independently turned on and off. In this way, the pager can selectively turn on  
10   only those circuits that are being used. This scheme reduces peak power usage, thereby increasing the life of the pager's battery. More particularly, as is well known in the art, decreasing the peak power usage tends to increase the life of the battery.

Referring to FIG. 19, in a step 191, the pager powers up the pager's receive subsystem in preparation to receive an address block as described in conjunction with  
15   FIG. 18. In a step 192, the pager receives the address block and stores the addresses in a memory. In a step 193, the pager begins decoding the address block being received in step 192. In this embodiment, decoding refers to processing of the address block to extract the addresses and data pointers in the address block. Step 193 is performed concurrently with receiving the address block in step 192,  
20   although in other embodiments the decoding may be performed after the entire block of addresses has been received.

When the entire block is received, the pager powers down the receiver subsystem in a step 195 while continuing to decode the stored address block. By "spreading out" the power usage, the duration and/or level of peak or maximum  
25   power usage is reduced, thereby conserving battery life. When the decode process is complete, the pager powers down the decode subsystem in a step 197. Then in a step 199, the pager powers up the notification subsystem (i.e., the circuitry that generates a signal or indication, such as a sound or vibration) and signals the subscriber that the subscriber has received a page.

Similarly, a two-way pager may sequentially power up subsystems in transmitting a message. For example, the pager may first power up the input subsystem (e.g., a keypad) that allows the user to enter numeric or alphanumeric data into a memory. Then the pager may power down the input subsystem while powering  
5 up a message processing subsystem that processes the input data into the proper format and protocol for transmission. Then the pager may power down the message processing subsystem while powering up the transmitter subsystem to broadcast the message. By sequencing the powering up and powering down of the various subsystems of the pager, peak power usage is reduced, thereby prolonging battery  
10 life.

FIG. 20 is a flow diagram illustrative of a pager in scheduling search times, according to one embodiment of the present invention. One of the situations that can arise with pagers is that the subscriber temporarily moves out of the paging system's coverage area. In this situation, the pager generally will not be able to detect any  
15 transmissions with the pager's protocol. However, conventional pagers are typically configured to continue searching for "active" channels (i.e., channels having transmissions with the pager's protocol) even if the pager is located out of the service area, thereby consuming power without need.

Referring to FIG. 20, the pager performs steps 131-137 (described above in  
20 conjunction with FIG. 13) to determine which channels the pager is configured to receive are active by monitoring these channels for transmissions according to the pager's protocol. If the pager does detect such transmissions, the pager is in the paging system's service area and need not change the search process. The pager would then process the detected transmission in the normal manner. On the other  
25 hand, if no transmissions with the pager's protocol are detected, the channel is assumed to be inactive and the pager proceeds to step 135 (described above in conjunction with FIG. 13) to determine whether all of the pager's channels have been scanned. If not, the pager returns to step 131. Otherwise, the pager proceeds to a step 203.

In step 203, the pager determines whether any of the channels in the search were active. If not, the pager performs a step 205 in which the pager enters the low-power mode and, in addition, increases the time the pager stays in the low-power mode before waking up and beginning a new search. For example, the pager may be configured to extend the duration by a factor of two each time the pager performs a search without detecting an active channel. The pager then returns to step 131 to start a new search. In a further refinement, the embodiment of FIG. 13 can be combined with this embodiment so that if the pager is in the service area, the pager stores the active channels and then searches the active channels only during reacquisition. However, if in step 203 active channels were detected, in a step 207 the pager enters the low-power mode for the normal duration before waking up and returning to step 131.

FIG. 21 is a flow diagram illustrative of a continuous transmission paging system, according to one embodiment of the present invention. This embodiment is directed toward reducing the power consumed by a pager during the acquisition process. As described above, a pager may be required to search several channels during the acquisition process, which consumes a relatively large amount of power. Further, in some situations, the paging system may become inactive. For example, in the early morning hours, there may be little or no paging activity. Thus, the paging system may not send any pages for a significant period of time, causing the pager to initiate the acquisition process and needlessly consume battery power.

Referring to FIG. 21, in this embodiment the paging system is configured to provide continuous transmission in a channel. In particular, in a step 211, the transmitter attempts to retrieve a message to be transmitted in a page. In a step 213, if there is a message, the message is formatted into a page and in a step 215, added to the batch that will be transmitted. When a batch is sufficiently filled, the batch is broadcast in a step 217. Referring back to step 213, if no messages are to be transmitted in a page in that channel, the paging system generates random or pseudo-random data in a step 219. In addition, the paging system generates an invalid or unused pager address so that a pager will not attempt to receive the randomized data.

The pagers in the system can then relatively quickly reacquire the channel by receiving the HS or SI segments, thereby avoiding the need to initiate the acquisition process. In a further refinement, this embodiment can be combined with the embodiment described in conjunction with FIG. 17 to allow the pager to more quickly enter the low-power mode after reacquiring the channel. For example, when random data is to be transmitted, the paging system could set the number of pages to zero.

FIG. 22 is a timing diagram illustrative of channel synchronization in a paging system that uses multiple channels for broadcasting pages, according to one embodiment of the present invention. Thus, in a paging system using three channels referred to herein as channels CH1-CH3, a pager would have to monitor at least all three of these channels. In accordance with the present invention, the paging system synchronizes the relative start times of frames in an offset manner between channels. For example, in channel CH1, the paging system may transmit an HS segment 221 (indicative of a start of a frame) at a time  $t$ . In channel CH2, the paging system may transmit an HS segment 222 at a time  $t + \Delta t$ . Similarly, in channel CH3 the paging system may transmit an HS segment 223 at a time  $t + 2\Delta t$ . Preferably, the duration of time  $\Delta t$  is set so that, once the pager receives an HS segment in one channel, the pager can change to the next channel and immediately receive an HS segment, and so on. For example,  $\Delta t$  may be about 50 ms. This sequencing scheme helps minimize the time that the pager needs to search through the channels to determine active channels. In an alternative embodiment,  $\Delta t$  may be set to equal the time that a pager needs to receive the SI segment and change to the next channel. In this embodiment,  $\Delta t$  may be about 50 ms.

FIG. 23 is a diagram illustrative of a pager search process, according to one embodiment of the present invention. The search is first narrowing so that the pager may save power by searching a relatively small number of the channels that the pager can receive. If the pager detects no active channels, then the pager starts widening its search. However, if the pager still cannot detect an active channel, it is assumed that

the pager is out of the service area and the pager enters the low-power mode for an extended period of time to save power.

In one embodiment, in a step 230 the pager is initially configured to search only specific channels of all of the channels that the pager is capable of searching. By initially searching only a limited number of channels, the pager can conserve power. The search process can be further narrowed by searching only at predetermined time intervals as described above in conjunction with FIG. 11. In a step 231, the pager searches these configured channels and stores the channel information of the active channels. The pager would then search only these active channels in subsequent searches. In this embodiment, step 231 is performed as described above in conjunction with FIG. 13. As a result, the search process is further narrowed to save pager power.

However, if the pager detects no active channels in a predetermined time period, the pager can perform a step 233 to expand the search process. In this embodiment, the pager starts expanding the search process by searching the channels as initially configured in step 230. If the pager still detects no active channels, the pager can perform a next step 235 in which the duration of each search in a channel is increased. In addition, the frequency of the searches may be increased. For example, the predetermined time interval between searches in step 230 may be decreased so that searches are performed more often. If still no active channels are detected after a second of the predetermined time periods, the pager can perform a next step 237 to further expand or widen the search. In step 237, the pager begins searching all of the channels that the pager is capable of receiving.

However, if after another of the predetermined time periods the pager still does not detect any active channels, the pager performs a step 239. In this situation, it is assumed that the pager is no longer in the service area and, thus, will not be able to receive pages. Thus, to save power, the pager significantly increases the time between searches and enters the low-power mode in step 239. In this embodiment, step 239 is substantially similar to the process described above in conjunction with FIG. 20.



FIG. 24 is a flow diagram illustrative of an extended low-power mode for low-traffic pagers, according to one embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the pager and paging system are configured to keep track of the time of the last transmission to each pager. This scheme is advantageously used in cases in which the pager does not receive many pages. The pager would be configured to enter the low-power mode after receiving no pages for a predetermined time period. Thus, when the paging system has not sent a page to a particular pager in a relatively long time, the paging system will know that the pager has entered the low-power mode for an extended duration. Because the paging system knows this pager "back-off" schedule and the time of the last transmission to the pager, when a new page is to be transmitted to a particular pager, the paging system can determine the time when the pager will next perform a search and schedule the page for that time.

In particular, in one embodiment the pager performs a step 240 in which the pager monitors active channels for pages addressed to that particular pager. In a step 241 the pager determines whether a page has been received. If a page is received, the pager proceeds to a step 243 in which the pager stores the time that the page was received. The pager also resets a timer that sets how long the pager will stay in the low-power mode between searches. In this embodiment, the timer is reset to an initial default time. Of course, the pager also processes the page in the normal manner.

However, if in step 241 no page is received, the pager performs a step 245. In step 245, the pager compares the time since the last received page (or since the search began if no pages have yet been received) to a predetermined time period. This predetermined time period can encompass the time needed for the pager to complete several search cycles. For example, this time period can be initially set to 1.875 seconds and then increased by a factor of two each time the time period expires. If the time since the last page does not exceed the predetermined time period, the pager returns to step 240 to monitor the active channels. If the time since the last page exceeds the predetermined time period, the pager proceeds to a step 247 in which the pager increases the duration of the low-power mode timer by a

predetermined amount and enters the low-power mode. If the pager does not receive any pages during the next search cycle, the pager will again increase the time period of the low-power mode timer so that the pager stays in the low-power mode for a longer time between searches.

- 5           The embodiments of the battery-saving techniques described above are illustrative of the principles of the present invention and are not intended to limit the invention to the particular embodiments described. For example, in light of the present disclosure, those skilled in the art of paging systems can devise other implementations of the pager using processors, protocols, and timing different from
- 10   the embodiments described. Accordingly, while the preferred embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described, it will be appreciated that various changes can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the method comprising:

monitoring a channel of the plurality of channels for a header synchronization (HS) segment of a transmission, the HS segment appearing substantially invariant with respect to frequency offset in the pager and Doppler shift in a channel when detected by the pager, wherein each protocol supported by the paging system has a unique HS segment;

receiving a detected HS segment;

determining whether the protocol of the received HS segment matches the pager's protocol; and

receiving a subsequent segment of the transmission when the protocol of the received HS segment matches the pager's protocol, and not receiving the subsequent segment of the transmission when the protocol of the received HS segment does not match the pager's protocol.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the HS segment comprises a frequency-swept signal.

3. A method for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the paging system being still further

configured to transmit multiple protocols on a single channel, the method comprising:  
[This claim is directed to paragraph 2.4.1.14 of the 9/12/97 memo]

monitoring a channel of the plurality of channels for a system information (SI) segment of a transmission, wherein the SI segment includes information indicative of the protocol of the transmission and the times that transmissions according to the pager's protocol will be broadcast by the paging system on the channel;

receiving a detected SI segment transmitted on the channel;

determining whether the protocol of the received SI segment matches the pager's protocol;

storing a transmission time indicated in the received SI segment for transmissions according to the protocol;

not receiving transmissions on the channel transmitted at times different from the transmission time indicated by the SI segment;

entering a receive mode at the transmission time indicated by the SI segment;

and

receiving a subsequent segment of the transmission.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the pager enters a low-power mode during times different from the transmission time indicated by the SI segment.

5. A method for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the method comprising:

during a search cycle, for each channel of the plurality of channels:

monitoring a channel of the plurality of channels for a transmission according to the pager's protocol,

adding the channel to a list stored in the pager when a transmission according to the pager's protocol is detected,

determining whether all channels of the plurality of channels have been monitored during the search cycle, and

changing to a next channel of the plurality of channels when, after a predetermined period, no transmission according to the pager's protocol is detected and all of the channels of the plurality of channels have not been monitored in the search cycle; and

monitoring the listed channels in a next search cycle, and not monitoring channels of the plurality of channels that are not listed.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein monitoring a channel comprises detecting a header synchronization (HS) segment of a transmission, when detected by the pager, the HS segment appearing substantially invariant with respect to frequency offset in the pager and Doppler shift in a channel, wherein each protocol supported by the paging system has a unique HS segment.

7. A method for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the method comprising:

in a channel of the plurality of channels, transmitting a frame with a plurality of segments, each segment capable of including a plurality of addresses, the plurality of addresses being arranged in a numerical order;

receiving in the pager a plurality of addresses of a transmitted segment;

determining whether an address of the plurality of addresses matches the pager's address, wherein:

starting with a first address of the plurality of addresses, comparing an address of the plurality of addresses with the pager's address;

for each unmatching address, determining whether the pager's address is in the numerical order relative to the unmatching address;

when the pager's address is out of numerical order relative to the address, comparing a next address of the plurality of addresses with the pager's address; and

when the pager's address is out of the numerical order relative to the address, causing the pager to enter a low-power mode for a remainder of the frame.

8. The method of Claim 7 wherein the numeric order is decreasing numeric order.

9. The method of Claim 7 wherein the numeric order is increasing numeric order.

10. The method of Claim 7 wherein the paging system is further configured to broadcast each frame with a predetermined number of segments numbered 1 through N, N being an integer that can be represented in binary form with M bits, all of the addresses in the address block of each segment being a binary number having more than M bits, all the addresses in the address block of each segment having the same value for M preselected bits, the value of the M bits corresponding to the number of the segment, the M bits being omitted from all of the addresses in the address block of each segment, the pager receiving the segment having a number corresponding to the M bits of the pager's address and not receiving segments having a segment number different from the M bits of the pager's address.

11. The method of Claim 7 further comprising for each segment, transmitting information indicative of the range of addresses of the plurality of addresses, and wherein receiving in the pager a plurality of addresses of a transmitted segment further comprises:

determining whether the pager's address is within the range of addresses; and

causing the pager to enter the low-power mode for a remainder of the frame if the pager's address is not included in the range of addresses.

12. The method of Claim 11, further comprising when the pager's address is included in the ranges of addresses:

receiving an address of the plurality of addresses;

comparing the received address to the pager's address;

when the received address is different from the pager's address, receiving another address of the plurality of addresses; and

when the address matches the pager's address, causing the pager to enter the low-power mode until a scheduled time for receiving data corresponding to the received address.

13. The method of Claim 11 further comprising:

for each segment of the plurality of segments, transmitting information indicative of the number of addresses in the plurality of addresses;

causing the pager to enter the low-power mode for a remainder of the frame when the number of addresses is zero;

causing the pager to receive addresses without receiving the range of addresses when the number of addresses is less than three; and

causing the pager to receive the range of addresses when the number of addresses is at least three.

14. A method for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the paging system being configured to transmit pages in a plurality of segments, the plurality of segments being part of a frame, the method comprising:

receiving in the pager a plurality of addresses in a segment, wherein the plurality of addresses are arranged in a numerical order;

determining whether the pager's address is within the range of addresses of the received plurality of addresses; and

when the pager's address is within the range of addresses of the plurality of address segments, performing a binary search of the plurality of addresses for an address matching the pager's address.

15. The method of Claim 14 wherein the plurality of addresses are transmitted in an address block separate from a plurality of data portions, each data portion of the plurality of data portions having a corresponding address in the plurality of addresses.

16. The method of Claim 15 further comprising, when the binary search finds a matching address, processing a data portion corresponding to the matching address.

17. A method for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the paging system being configured to transmit pages in a plurality of segments, the plurality of segments being part of a frame, the method comprising:

activating a receiver subsystem in the pager, wherein the receiver subsystem is configured to receive transmissions, the receiver subsystem consuming relatively more power in the activated state than in a deactivated state;

receiving in the pager an address block of a transmitted segment, wherein the address block is transmitted in the segment separate from a data block of the segment, the data block having a plurality of data portions corresponding to a plurality of addresses in the address block;

deactivating the receiver subsystem;

activating a processing subsystem of the pager after the receiving subsystem has been activated, wherein the processing subsystem is configured to process



received address segments, the processing subsystem consuming relatively more power in the activated state than in a deactivated state;

processing the plurality of addresses; and

deactivating the processing subsystem after the plurality of addresses has been processed, the receiver subsystem being deactivated before the processing subsystem.

18. The method of Claim 17 wherein the processing subsystem is activated after substantially all of the plurality of addresses have been received by the receiver subsystem.

19. A method for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the method comprising:

during a predetermined number of search cycles, causing the pager to monitor each channel of the plurality of channels for transmissions according to the pager's protocol;

entering a low-power mode for a predetermined time period when the pager fails to detect any transmissions according to the pager's protocol during the predetermined number of search cycles, wherein the predetermined time period is longer than the period that the pager previously entered the low-power mode; and

resetting the predetermined time period to a default time period after the pager detects a transmission according to the pager's protocol during the predetermined number of search cycles.

20. The method of Claim 19 wherein the predetermined time period is about equivalent to a factor of two increase over the previous period that the pager entered the low-power mode.

21. A method for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the method comprising:

in a channel of the plurality of channels, substantially continuously broadcasting a plurality of transmissions; and

monitoring in the pager the substantially continuous transmissions,

wherein the substantially continuous transmissions include information indicative of the protocol being transmitted and wherein a non-used address and randomized data are provided in the substantially continuous transmissions when no actual page information is to be transmitted.

22. The method of Claim 21 wherein each transmission includes a segment with information indicative of the number of addresses in the segment, the number of addresses not including the number of addresses corresponding to the randomized data.

23. A method for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the paging system being still further configured to transmit pages in a plurality of segments, the plurality of segments being part of a frame, the method comprising:

transmitting a first transmission in a first channel of the plurality of channels according to the pager's protocol; and

transmitting a second transmission in a second channel of the plurality of channels according to the pager's protocol, wherein the first and second transmissions

are synchronized such that the pager can receive a predetermined segment of the first transmission on the first channel, then switch to the second channel and receive a predetermined segment of the second transmission with substantially no waiting for the start of the predetermined segment of the second transmission, each of the predetermined segments having information indicative of the protocol of the corresponding transmission.

24. The method of Claim 23 wherein the predetermined segments are header synchronization segments having signals that appear to be substantially invariant with respect to frequency offset in the pager and Doppler shift in the corresponding channel.

25. A method for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the pager having a low-power mode in which the pager consumes less power than in a functional mode, the pager normally being in the functional mode when turned on, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the method comprising:

causing the pager to enter the functional mode;

performing a first search of the plurality of channels, wherein the first search comprises a search for transmissions according to the pager's protocol;

performing a second search of the plurality of channels, wherein the second search is limited to the channel or channels found in the first search;

performing a third search of the plurality of channels when, after a first predetermined time period, no transmissions according to the pager's protocol are detected in any of the searched channels, the third search not being limited to the channel or channels found in the first search; and

causing the pager to enter the low-power mode for a period of time greater than a previous period of time that the pager entered the low-power mode when, after

a second predetermined time period, no transmissions according to the pager's protocol are detected in the third search.

26. The method of Claim 25 further comprising repeating the first search after the pager transitions from the low-power mode to the functional mode.

27. The method of Claim 25 wherein the third search includes the plurality of channels searched in the first search and at least one other channel.

28. The method of Claim 25 wherein the third search includes searching the channels found in the first search with increased frequency.

29. The method of Claim 25 wherein the third search includes searching each channel found in the second search for an increased duration.

30. A method for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the pager having a low-power mode in which the pager consumes less power than in a functional mode, the pager normally being in the functional mode when turned on, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the method comprising:

causing the pager to enter the functional mode;

monitoring a plurality of channels for transmissions according to the pager's protocol; and

causing the pager to enter the low-power mode for a first predetermined time period when the pager does not receive a page addressed to the pager during a second predetermined time period, the second predetermined time period starting from the time the pager entered the functional mode and being reset when the pager receives a page addressed to the pager.

31. The method of Claim 30 further comprising increasing the first predetermined time period prior to entering the low-power mode when the second predetermined time period expires without the pager's receiving a page addressed to the pager.

32. An apparatus for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver subsystem disposed in the pager, wherein the receiver subsystem is configured to receive transmissions from the paging system; and

a control subsystem disposed in the pager and coupled to the receiver subsystem, wherein the control subsystem is configured to:

cause the receiver subsystem to monitor a channel of the plurality of channels for a header synchronization (HS) segment of a transmission, wherein, when detected by the receiver subsystem, the HS segment appears substantially invariant with respect to frequency offset in a channel or in a local oscillator in the receiver subsystem, and wherein each protocol supported by the paging system has a unique HS segment,

determine whether the protocol of the received HS segment matches the pager's protocol, and

cause the receiver subsystem to receive a subsequent segment of the transmission when the protocol of the received HS segment matches the pager's protocol, and not receive the subsequent segment of the transmission when the protocol of the received HS segment does not match the pager's protocol.

33. The apparatus of Claim 32 wherein the HS segment comprises a frequency-swept signal.

34. An apparatus for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the paging system being still further configured to transmit multiple protocols on a single channel, the apparatus comprising:

- a receiver subsystem disposed in the pager, wherein the receiver subsystem is configured to receive transmissions from the paging system; and

- a control subsystem disposed in the pager and coupled to the receiver subsystem, wherein the control subsystem is configured to:

- cause the receiver subsystem to monitor a channel of the plurality of channels for a system information (SI) segment of a transmission and receive the SI segment, wherein the SI segment includes information indicative of the protocol of the transmission and the times that transmissions according to the pager's protocol will be broadcast by the paging system on the channel,

- determine whether the protocol of the received SI segment matches the pager's protocol,

- store a transmission time indicated in the received SI segment,

- cause the pager to not receive transmissions on the channel transmitted at times different from the transmission time indicated by the SI segment, and

- cause the pager to enter a functional mode such that the pager receives the transmission at the indicated transmission time.

35. The apparatus of Claim 34 wherein the control system is configured to cause the pager to enter a low-power mode during times different from the transmission time indicated by the SI segment.

36. An apparatus for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of

a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver subsystem disposed in the pager, wherein the receiver subsystem is configured to receive transmissions from the paging system; and

a control subsystem disposed in the pager and coupled to the receiver subsystem, wherein during a search cycle the control subsystem is configured to:

cause the receiver subsystem to monitor a channel of the plurality of channels for a transmission according to the pager's protocol,

add the channel to a list stored in the pager when a transmission according to the pager's protocol is detected,

determine whether all channels of the plurality of channels have been monitored during the search cycle, and

cause the receiver subsystem to monitor a next channel of the plurality of channels when, after a predetermined period, no transmission according to the pager's protocol is detected and all of the channels of the plurality of channels have not been monitored in the search cycle.

37. The apparatus of Claim 36 wherein the control subsystem is further configured to cause the receiver subsystem to monitor the listed channels in a next search cycle and not monitor channels of the plurality of channels that are not listed.

38. The apparatus of Claim 36 wherein the receiver subsystem is configured to monitor a channel by detecting a header synchronization (HS) segment of a transmission, the HS segment appearing substantially invariant with respect to frequency offset in a channel or in a local oscillator in the receiver subsystem when detected by the receiver subsystem, wherein each protocol supported by the paging system has a unique HS segment.

39. An apparatus for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of

a plurality of channels, the paging system being configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the paging system being further configured to transmit, in a channel of the plurality of channels, a plurality of segments in a frame, the plurality of segments each having an address block, each address block capable of having a plurality of addresses that are arranged in a numerical order, the apparatus comprising:

- a receiver subsystem disposed in the pager, wherein the receiver subsystem is configured to receive transmissions from the paging system; and

- a control subsystem disposed in the pager and coupled to the receiver subsystem, wherein, during a search cycle, the control subsystem is configured to:

- cause the receiver subsystem to receive an address block of a transmitted segment,

- determine whether an address of the address block matches the pager's address, wherein:

- starting with a first address of the address block, the control subsystem compares the pager's address to the address of the address block,

- for each unmatching address segment, the control subsystem determines whether the pager's address is in the numerical order relative to the address,

- when the pager's address is out of numerical order relative to the address, the control subsystem causes the pager to compare a next address of the address block, and

- when the pager's address is out of the numerical order relative to the address, the control subsystem causes the pager to enter a low-power mode for a remainder of the frame.

40. The apparatus of Claim 39 wherein the numerical order is decreasing numerical order.

41. The apparatus of Claim 39 wherein the numerical order is increasing numerical order.



42. The apparatus of Claim 39 wherein the paging system is further configured to broadcast each frame with a predetermined number of segments numbered 1 through N, N being an integer that can be represented in binary form with M bits, all of the addresses in the address block of each segment being a binary number having more than M bits, all the addresses in the address block of each segment having the same value for M preselected bits, the value of the M bits corresponding to the number of the segment, the M bits being omitted from all of the addresses in the address block of each segment, the pager receiving the segment having a number corresponding to the M bits of the pager's address and not receiving segments having a segment number different from the M bits of the pager's address.

43. The apparatus of Claim 39 wherein the segment includes information indicative of the range of addresses in the address block, and wherein the control subsystem is further configured to:

- determine whether the pager's address within the range of addresses; and
- cause the pager to enter the low-power mode for a remainder of the frame if the pager's address is not within the range of addresses.

44. The apparatus of Claim 43, wherein, when the pager's address is included in the range of addresses, the control subsystem is further configured to:

- cause the receiver subsystem to receive an address of the address block;
- compare the received address to the pager's address;
- cause the receiver subsystem to receive another address of the address block when the received address is different from the pager's address; and
- cause the pager to enter the low-power mode until a scheduled time for receiving data corresponding to the address when the received address matches the pager's address.

45. The apparatus of Claim 43 wherein the segment also includes information indicative of the number of addresses in the address block, and wherein the control subsystem is further configured to:

cause the pager to enter the low-power mode for a remainder of the frame when the number of addresses is zero;

cause the pager to receive the addresses of the address block without receiving the range of addresses when the number of addresses is less than three; and

cause the pager to receive the range of addresses when the number of addresses is at least three.

46. The apparatus of Claim 43 wherein the range of addresses is included in the address block of the segment.

47. An apparatus for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the paging system being still further configured to transmit pages in a plurality of segments, the plurality of segments being part of a frame, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver subsystem disposed in the pager, wherein the receiver subsystem is configured to receive transmissions from the paging system; and

a control subsystem disposed in the pager and coupled to the receiver subsystem, wherein the control subsystem is configured to:

cause the receiver subsystem to receive a plurality of addresses of a segment in a frame, wherein the plurality of addresses are arranged in a numerical order,

determine whether the pager's address is within the range of addresses of the received plurality of addresses, and

perform a binary search of the plurality of addresses for an address matching the pager's address when the pager's address is within the range of addresses.

48. The apparatus of Claim 47 wherein the plurality of addresses are transmitted in a segment as part of an address block, the address block being separate from a data block having a plurality of data portions, wherein each data portion of the plurality of data portions having a corresponding address in the plurality of addresses.

49. The apparatus of Claim 48 wherein, when the binary search finds a matching address, the control subsystem is further configured to process a data portion corresponding to the matching address.

50. An apparatus for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the paging system being still further configured to transmit pages in a plurality of segments, the plurality of segments being part of a frame, the apparatus comprising:

- a receiver subsystem disposed in the pager, wherein the receiver subsystem is configured to receive transmissions from the paging system;

- a processing subsystem disposed in the pager, wherein the processing subsystem is configured to process information received by the receiver subsystem;
- and

- a control subsystem disposed in the pager and coupled to the receiver and processing subsystems, wherein the control subsystem is configured to:

- activate the receiver subsystem to receive transmissions, the receiver subsystem consuming relatively more power in the activated state than in a deactivated state,

- cause the receiver subsystem to receive a plurality of addresses of a segment in a frame, wherein the plurality of addresses are transmitted in a segment as part of an address block, the address block being separate from a data block that includes a plurality of data portions, each data portion of the plurality of data portions having a corresponding address in the plurality of addresses,

deactivate the receiver subsystem,  
activate the processing subsystem after the receiver subsystem has been activated, wherein the processing subsystem consumes relatively more power in the activated state than in a deactivated state,  
cause the processing subsystem to process the plurality of addresses,  
and  
deactivate the processing subsystem after the plurality of address segments have been processed, the receiver subsystem being deactivated before the processing subsystem.

51. The apparatus of Claim 50 wherein the processing subsystem is activated after substantially all of the plurality of addresses has been received by the receiver subsystem.

52. An apparatus for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver subsystem disposed in the pager, wherein the receiver subsystem is configured to receive transmissions from the paging system; and

a control subsystem disposed in the pager and coupled to the receiver subsystem, wherein the control subsystem is configured to:

cause the receiver subsystem to monitor each channel of the plurality of channels for transmissions according to the pager's protocol for a predetermined number of search cycles,

cause the pager to enter a low-power mode for a predetermined time period when the pager fails to detect any transmissions according to the pager's protocol during the predetermined number of search cycles, wherein the predetermined time period is longer than a time period that the pager previously entered the low-power mode; and

reset the predetermined time period to a default time period after the pager detects a transmission according to the pager's protocol during the predetermined number of search cycles.

53. The apparatus of Claim 52 wherein the predetermined time period is equivalent to about a factor of two increase over the previous period that the pager entered the low-power mode.

54. An apparatus for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the paging system being still further configured to substantially continuously broadcast a plurality of transmissions, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver subsystem disposed in the pager, wherein the receiver subsystem is configured to receive transmissions from the paging system; and

a control subsystem disposed in the pager and coupled to the receiver subsystem, wherein, in a channel of the plurality of channels, the control subsystem is configured to cause the receiver subsystem to monitor transmissions in the channel,

wherein the substantially continuous transmissions include information indicative of the protocol being transmitted and wherein non-used addresses and randomized data are provided in the substantially continuous transmissions when no actual page information is to be transmitted.

55. The apparatus of Claim 54 wherein each transmission includes a segment with information indicative of the number of addresses in the segment, the number of addresses not including the number of addresses corresponding to the randomized data.

56. An apparatus for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the apparatus comprising:

a transmit subsystem configured to broadcast transmissions according to the pager's protocol and to broadcast transmissions according to at least one protocol different from the pager's protocol; and

a control subsystem coupled to the transmit subsystem, wherein the control subsystem is configured to:

cause the transmit subsystem to transmit a first transmission in a first channel of the plurality of channels according to the pager's protocol; and

cause the transmit subsystem to transmit a second transmission in a second channel of the plurality of channels according to the pager's protocol, wherein the first and second transmissions are synchronized such that the pager can receive a predetermined segment of the first transmission on the first channel, then switch to the second channel and receive the predetermined segment of the second transmission with substantially no waiting for the start of the predetermined segment of the second transmission, each of the predetermined segments having information indicative of the protocol of its corresponding transmission.

57. The apparatus of Claim 56 wherein each of the predetermined segments are a header synchronization segment of its transmission, the header synchronization segment having signals that appear substantially invariant with respect to frequency offset in the pager and Doppler shift in the corresponding channel.

58. An apparatus for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the pager having a low-power mode in which the pager consumes less power than in a functional mode, the pager normally being in the functional mode when turned on, the paging system being further configured to

transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the apparatus comprising:

- a receiver subsystem disposed in the pager, wherein the receiver subsystem is configured to receive transmissions from the paging system;

- a processing subsystem disposed in the pager, wherein the processing subsystem is configured to process transmissions received by the receiver subsystem;
- and

- a control subsystem disposed in the pager and coupled to the receiver and processing subsystems, wherein the control subsystem is configured to:

- cause the pager to enter the functional mode,

- cause the receiver and processing subsystems to monitor the plurality of channels in a first search of the plurality of channels, wherein the first search comprises a search for transmissions according to the pager's protocol,

- cause the receiver and processing subsystems to monitor the plurality of channels in a second search of the plurality of channels, wherein the second search is limited to the channel or channels found in the first search,

- cause the receiver and processing subsystems to monitor the plurality of channels in a third search of the plurality of channels when, after a first predetermined time period, no transmissions according to the pager's protocol are detected in any of the searched channels, the third search not being limited to the channel or channels found in the first search, and

- cause the pager to enter the low-power mode for a period of time greater than a previous period of time that the pager entered the low-power mode when, after a second predetermined time period, no transmissions according to the pager's protocol are detected in the third search.

59. The apparatus of Claim 58 wherein the control subsystem is further configured to cause the receiver and processing subsystems to repeat the first search after the pager transitions from the low-power mode to the functional mode.

60. The apparatus of Claim 58 wherein the third search includes searching the channels found in the first search with increased frequency.

61. The apparatus of Claim 58 wherein the third search includes searching each channel found in the second search for an increased duration.

62. The apparatus of Claim 58 wherein the third search includes the plurality of channels searched in the first search and at least one other channel.

63. An apparatus for conserving power in a pager, the pager being configured to operate according to a protocol and further configured to receive pages transmitted by a paging system according to the pager's protocol over one or more of a plurality of channels, the pager having a low-power mode in which the pager consumes less power than in a functional mode, the pager normally being in the functional mode when turned on, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages according to protocols different from the pager's protocol, the apparatus comprising:

- a receiver subsystem disposed in the pager, wherein the receiver subsystem is configured to receive transmissions from the paging system; and

- a control subsystem disposed in the pager and coupled to the receiver subsystem, wherein the control subsystem is configured to:

- cause the pager to enter the functional mode,

- cause the receiver subsystem to monitor a plurality of channels for transmissions according to the pager's protocol, and

- cause the pager to enter the low-power mode for a first predetermined time period when the pager does not receive a page addressed to the pager during a second predetermined time period, the second predetermined time period starting from the time the pager entered the functional mode and being reset when the pager receives a page addressed to the pager.



64. The apparatus of Claim 63 wherein the control subsystem is further configured to increase the first predetermined time period prior to entering the low-power mode when the second predetermined time period expires without the pager's receiving a page addressed to the pager.

65. A pager for use with a paging system, the paging system being configured to transmit pages according to a plurality of protocols over a plurality of channels, the paging system being further configured to transmit pages in a plurality of page segments, the plurality of segments each having an address block and a data block separate from the address block, each address block capable of having a plurality of addresses and each data block having a plurality of data portions corresponding to the plurality of addresses in the address block, the paging system being still further configured to transmit a header synchronization (HS) segment and a system information (SI) segment, the segments being part of a frame, the pager comprising:

means for receiving an address block of a segment of a frame;

means for determining whether an address assigned to the pager is included in the address block;

means for receiving a data block corresponding to the received address block when the address of the pager is included in the address block and for not receiving the corresponding data block when the address of the pager is not included in the received address block.

66. The pager of Claim 65 wherein the HS segment includes a signal that appears to be substantially invariant with respect to frequency offset in the pager and Doppler shift in the channel, each protocol of the plurality of protocols having a unique HS segment, the pager being configured to detect whether a transmission is according to the pager's protocol by detecting whether the HS segment corresponds to the pager's protocol.

67. The pager of Claim 65 wherein the paging system is configured to broadcast a frame with a predetermined number of page segments numbered 1 through N, N being an integer that can be represented in binary form with M bits, all of the addresses in the address block of each page segment being a binary number having more than M bits, all of the addresses in the address block of each page segment having the same value for M preselected bits, the M bits corresponding to the number of the page segment, the M bits being omitted from all of the addresses in the address block of each page segment.

68. The pager of Claim 67 wherein the M bits are preselected to be the M lower order bits of the address and wherein N is equivalent to  $2^M$ .

69. The pager of Claim 67 wherein the means for receiving an address block is configured to not receive segments having a segment number different from the M lowest order bits of the pager's address.

70. The pager of Claim 65 wherein the paging system is further configured to transmit a page segment with the plurality of addresses of its address block being arranged in numerical order, and wherein the means for determining is configured to compare each address of the plurality of addresses in order with the address of the pager until the address matches the pager's address or is out of numerical order relative to the pager's address.

71. The pager of Claim 65 wherein the paging system is further configured to transmit a page segment with information indicative of the range of addresses the address block, and wherein the means for determining is further configured to determine whether the pager's address is within the range of addresses and to cause the pager to enter a low-power mode for the remainder of the frame when the pager's address is not included in the range of addresses.

72. The pager of Claim 65 wherein the paging system is further configured to transmit a page segment with the number of addresses in the address block, the means for determining being still further configured to:

cause the pager to enter the low-power mode when the number of addresses is zero;

cause the pager to receive the address or addresses of the address block when the number of addresses is less than three; and

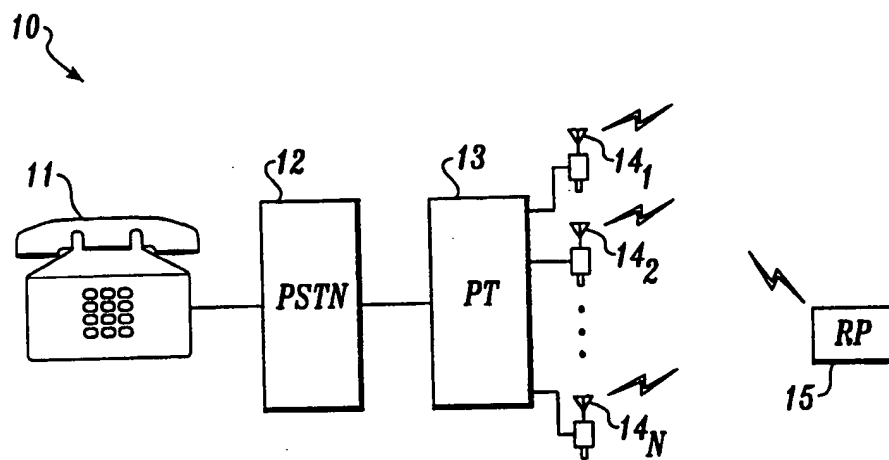
cause the pager to receive the range of addresses when the number of address is equal to or greater than three.

73. The pager of Claim 65 wherein the means for determining is still further configured to perform a binary search of the addresses in the address block.

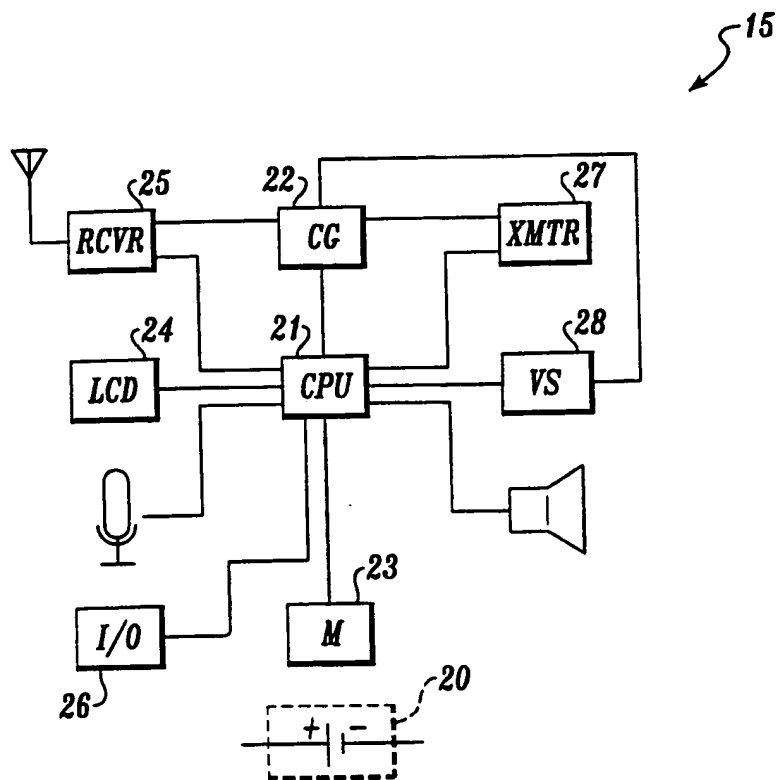
74. The method of Claim 10 wherein the M bits are preselected to be the M lower order bits of the address and wherein N is equivalent to  $2^M$ .

75. The apparatus of Claim 42 the M bits are preselected to be the M lower order bits of the address and wherein N is equivalent to  $2^M$ .

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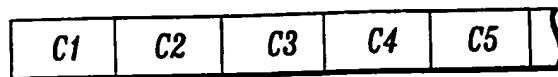


*Fig. 1*  
(PRIOR ART)

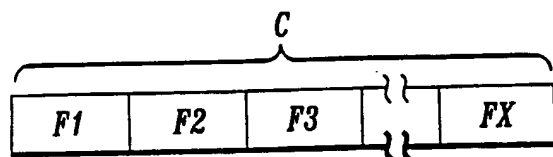


*Fig. 2*  
(PRIOR ART)

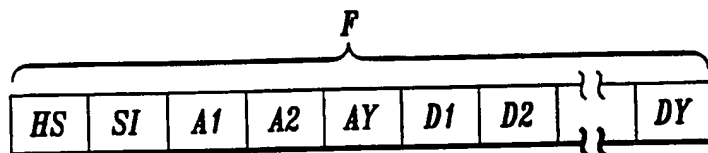
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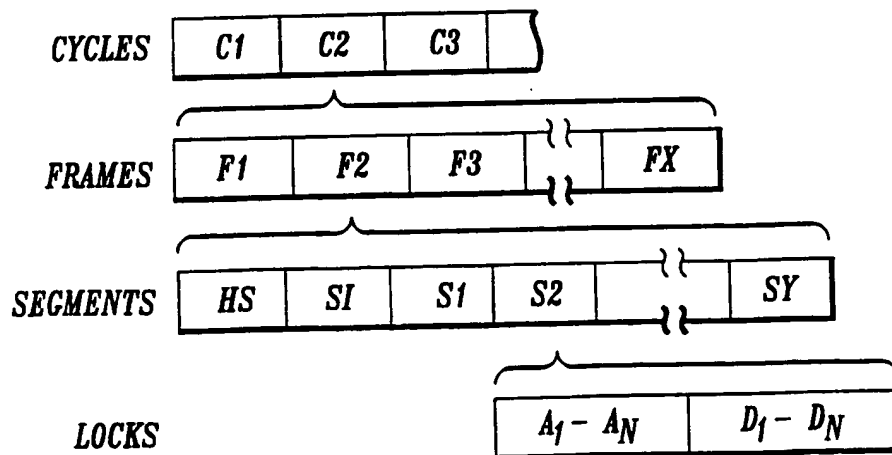
*Fig. 3*  
(PRIOR ART)



*Fig. 4*  
(PRIOR ART)



*Fig. 5*  
(PRIOR ART)



*Fig. 6*

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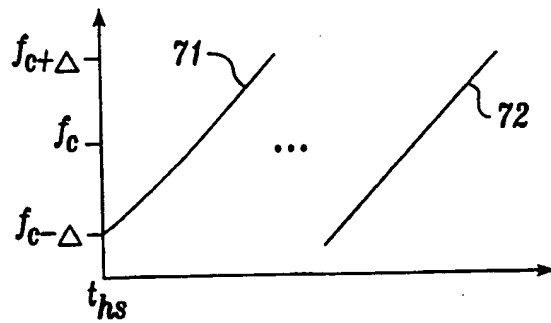


Fig. 7

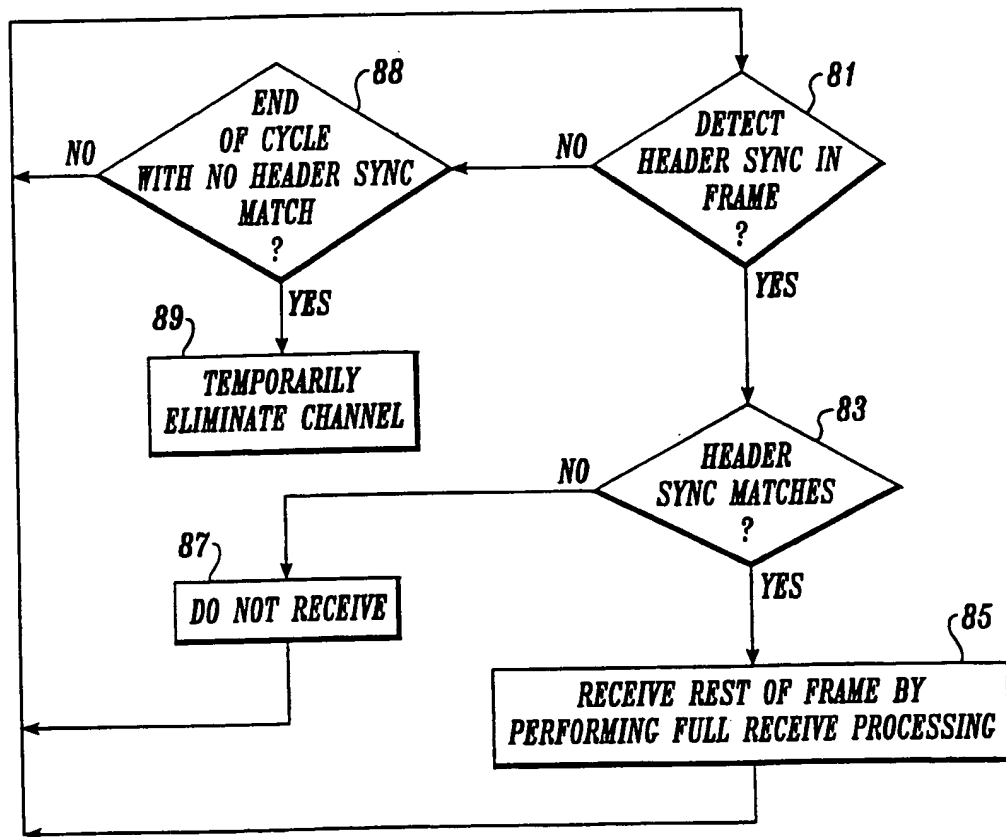


Fig. 8

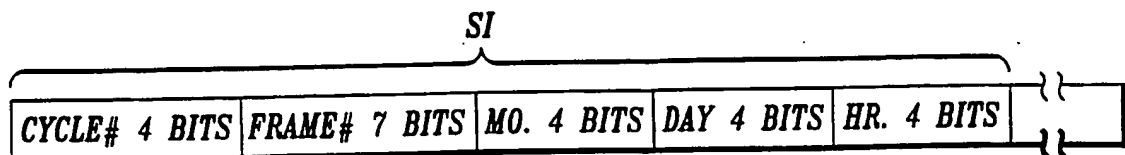
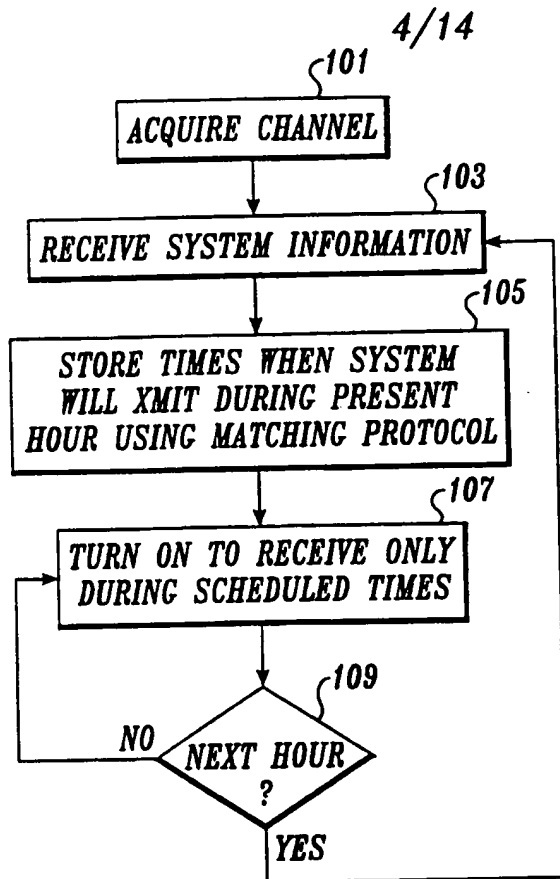
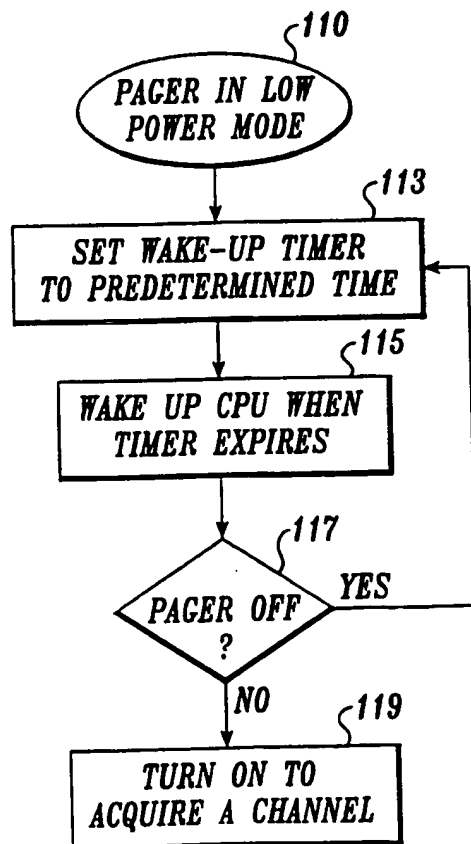
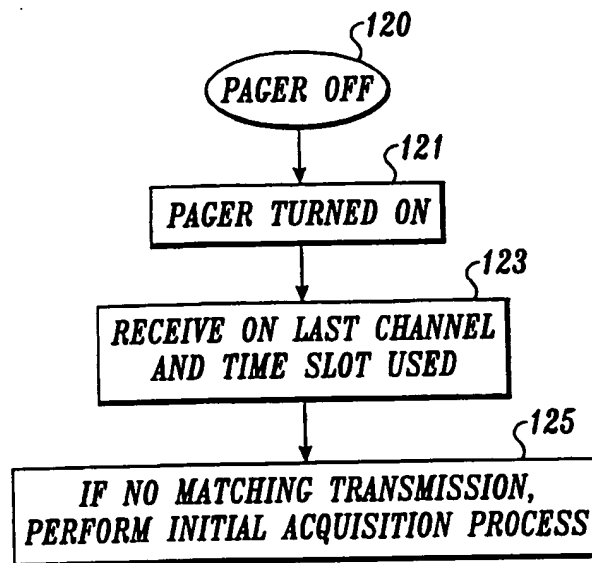
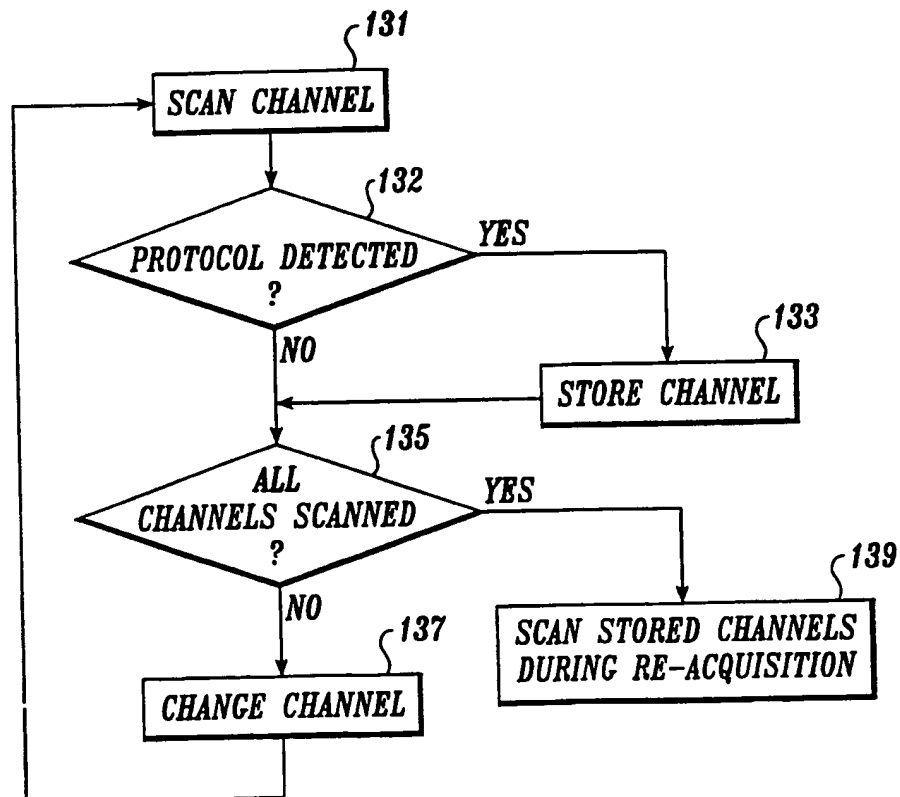


Fig. 9

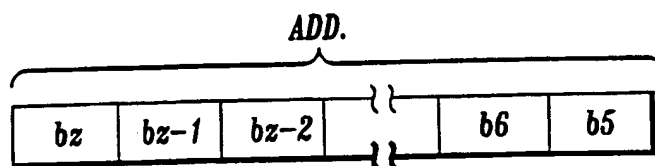
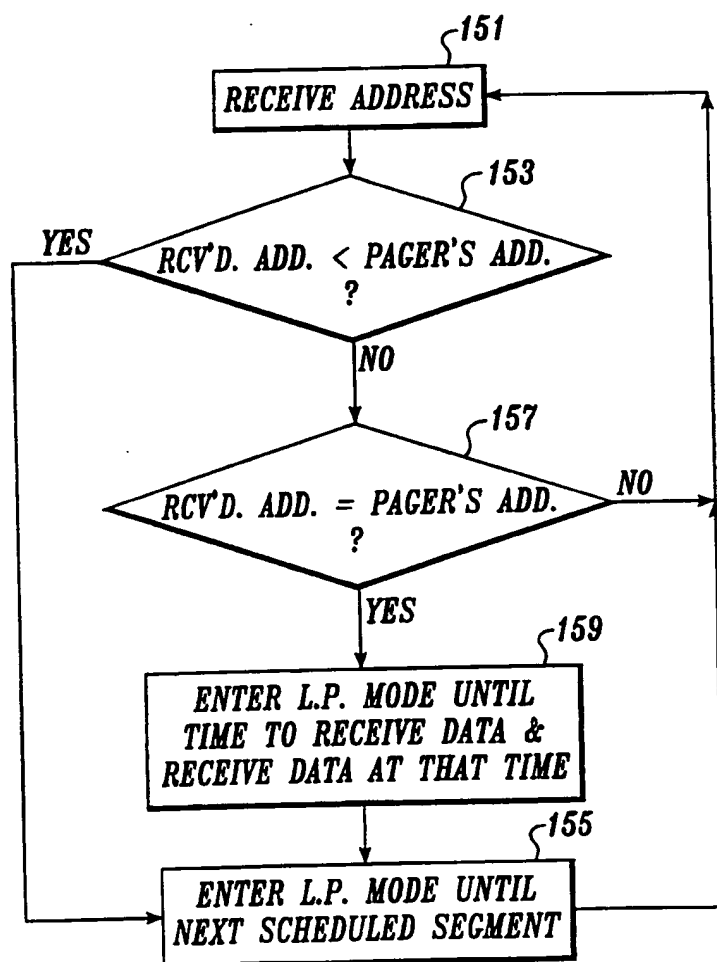
*Fig. 10**Fig. 11*

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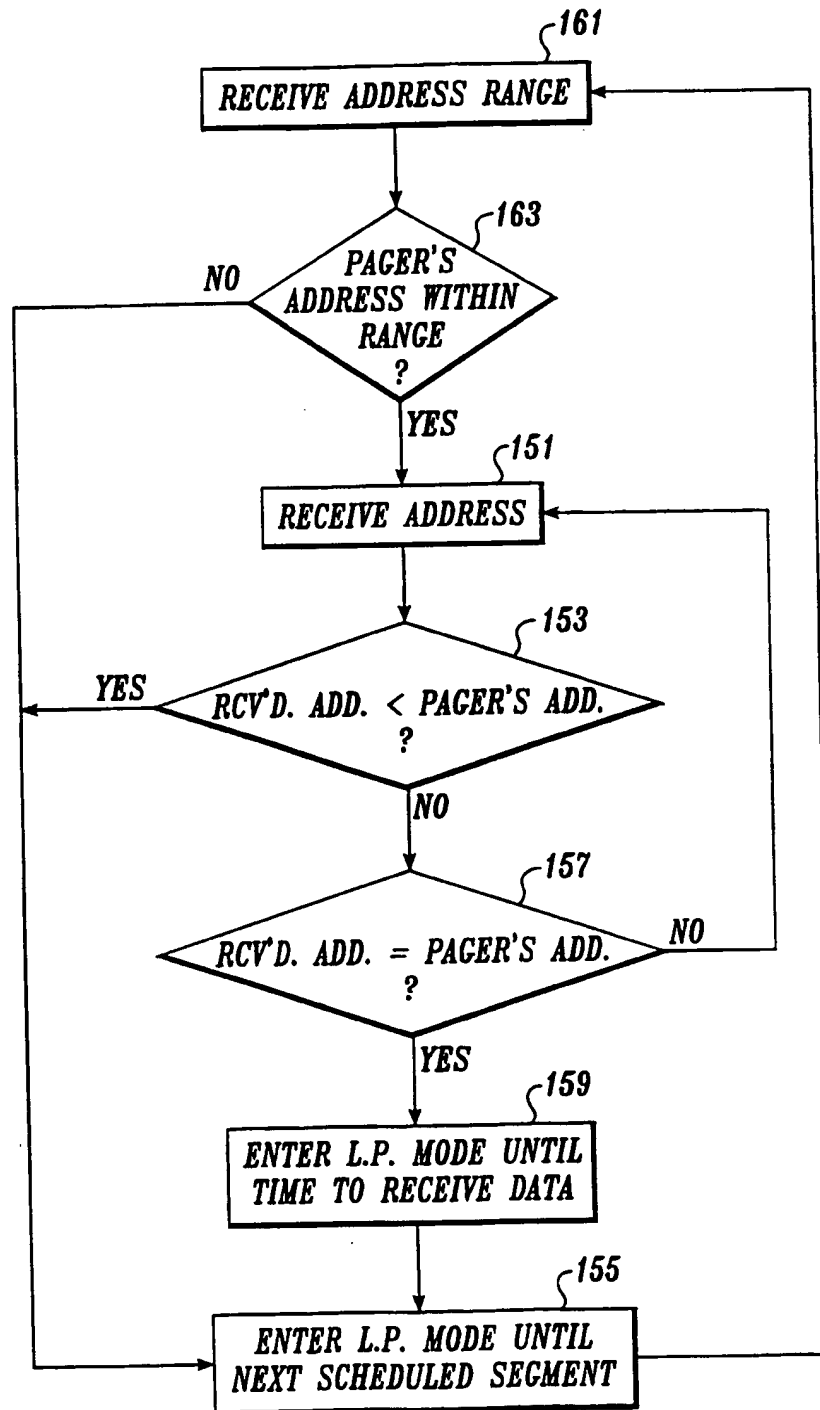
*Fig. 12**Fig. 13*



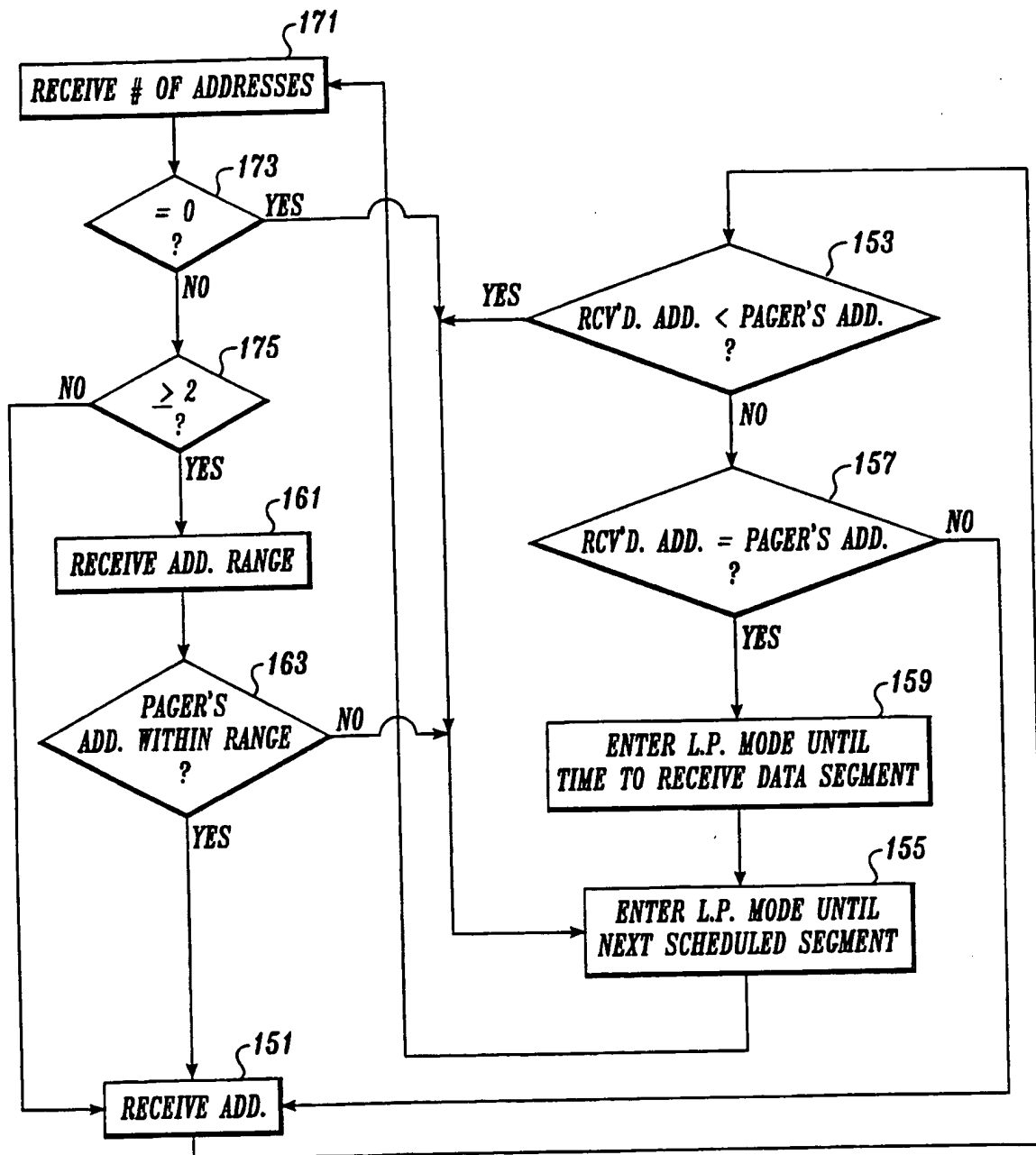
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*Fig. 14**Fig. 15*

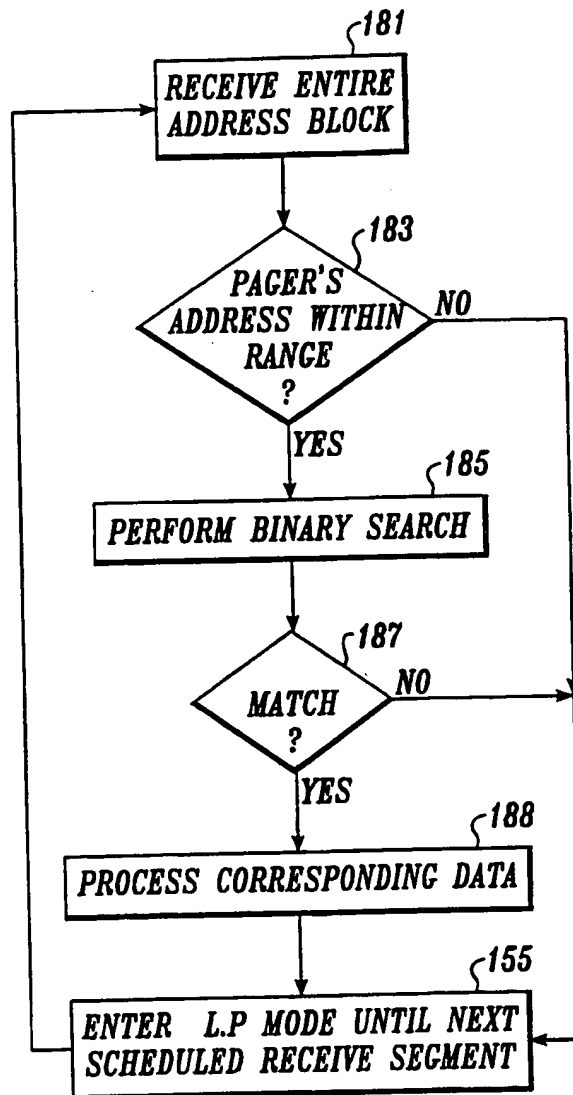
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*Fig. 16*

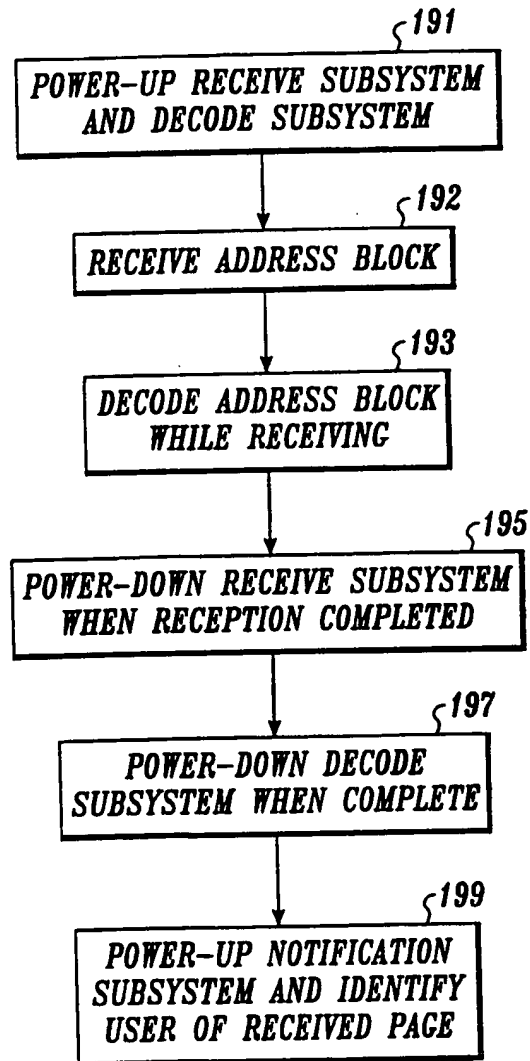
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*Fig. 17*

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*Fig. 18*

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*Fig. 19*

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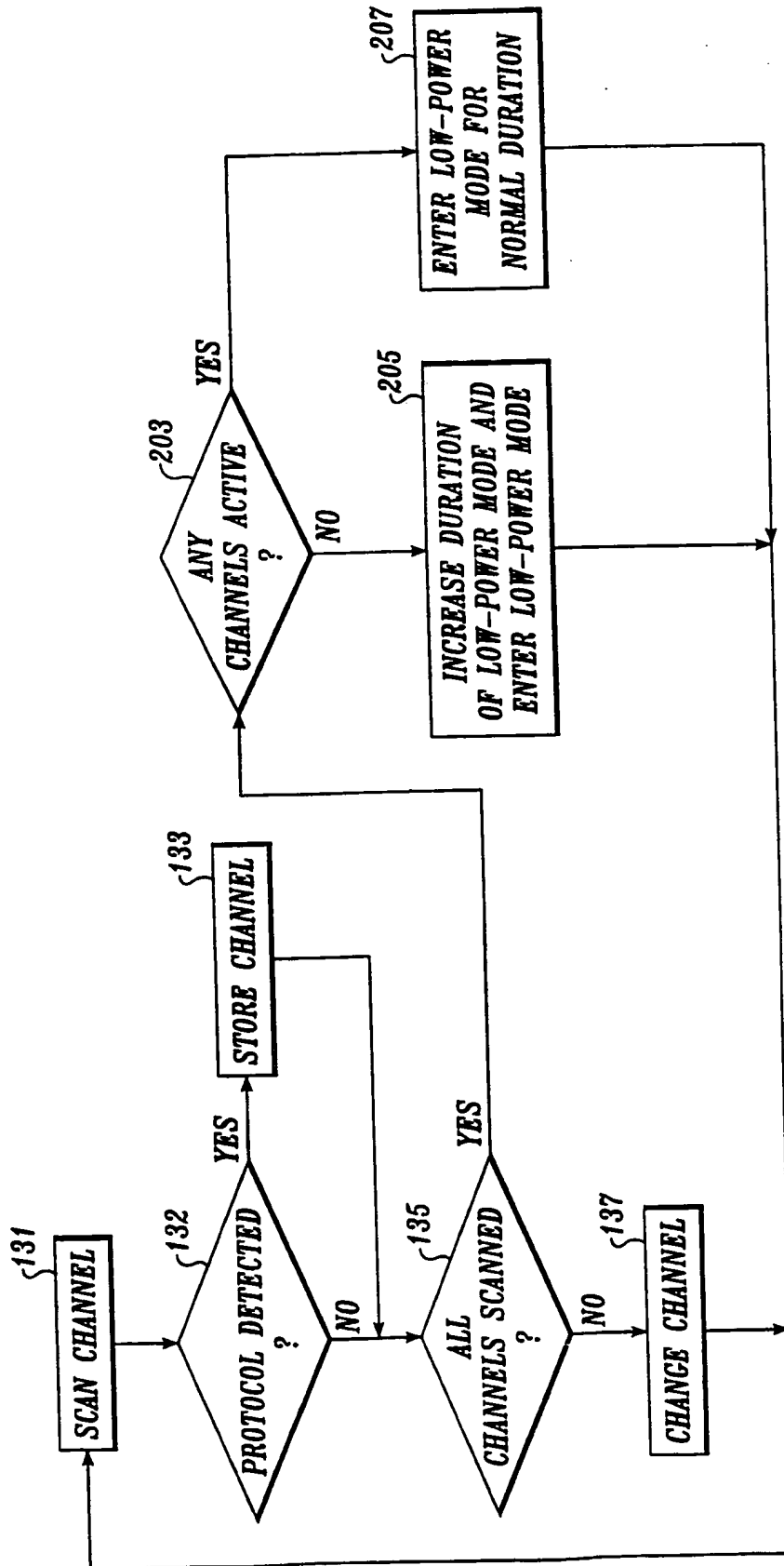
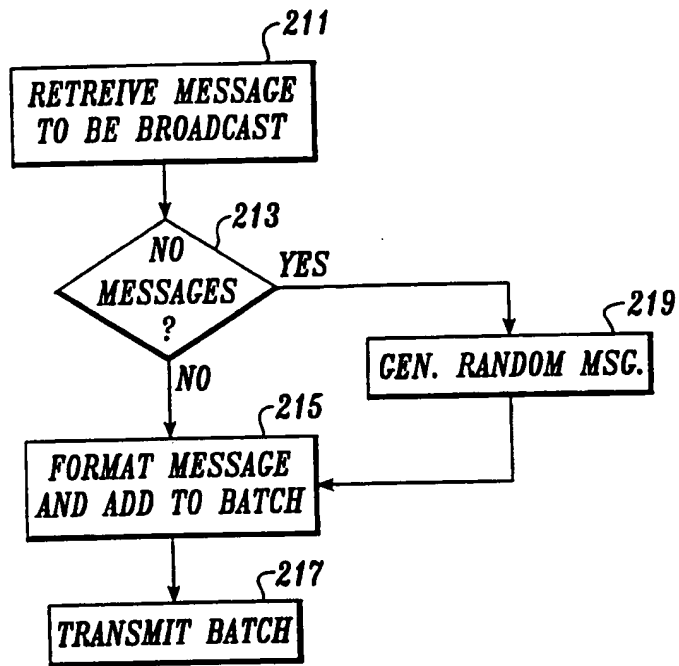
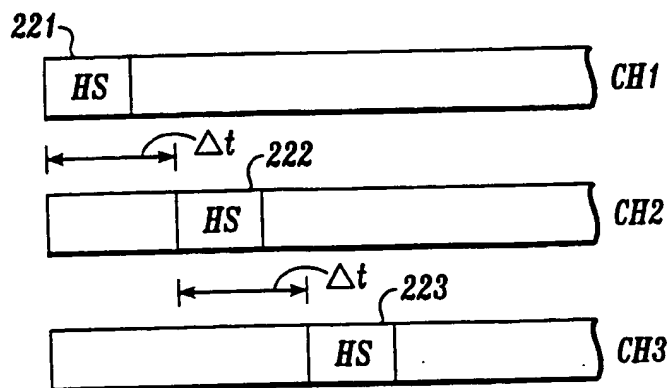
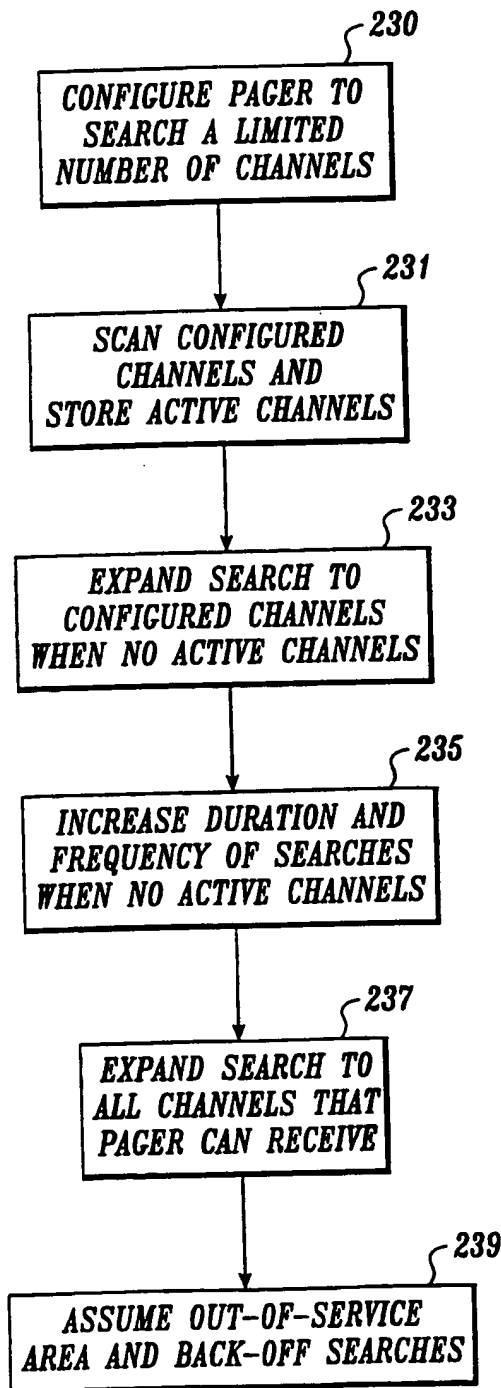


Fig. 20

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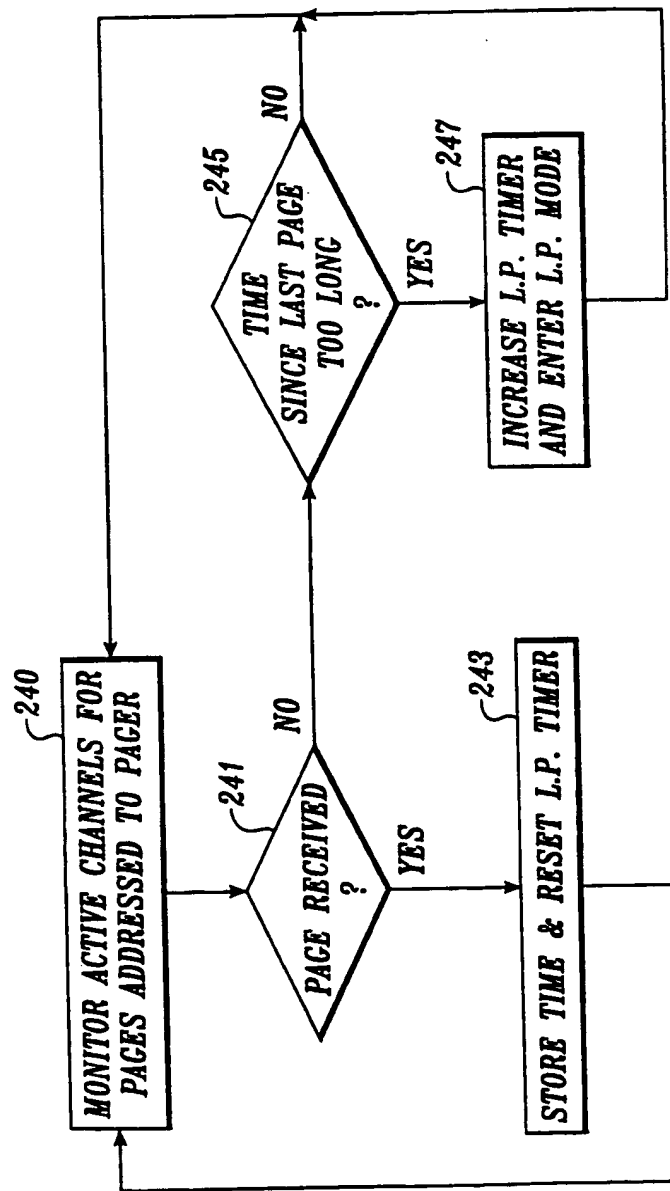
*Fig. 21**Fig. 22*

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*Fig. 23*



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*Fig. 24*

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US98/25544

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(6) :H04B 7/26, 1/16

US CL :455/38.3, 343

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 455/38.3, 343, 31.1, 32.1, 38.1, 38.2, 38.4, 434, 515, 161.1, 161.2; 340/825.44, 311.1; 370/311, 313, 314, 347

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

NONE

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 5,423,057 A (KUZNICKI ET AL) 06 June 1995, abstract, column 9 line 56 to column 7 line 21, figure 6.	1-4, 32-35 --- 5-9, 11-12, 14-31, 36-41, 43-44, 46-64
Y	US 5,375,254 A (OWEN) 20 December 1994, column 5 line 5 to column 6 line 13, figure 3.	19-20, 25-31, 52-53, 58-64
Y	US 5,613,208 A (BLACKMAN ET AL) 18 March 1997, abstract, columns 6-7, figure 3.	5-6, 36-38
Y	US 5,440,299 A (SCHWENDEMAN) 08 August 1995, column 1 lines 32-42.	7-9, 11-12, 14-16, 39-41, 43-44, 46-49, 70-71



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
*E* earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
*L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*G* document member of the same patent family
*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

04 MAY 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

20 MAY 1999

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US98/25544

## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,251,325 A (DAVIS ET AL) 05 October 1993, column 4 line 1 to column 6 line 33, figure 2.	17-18, 50-51
Y	US 4,914,649 A (SCHWENDEMAN ET AL) 03 April 1990, abstract, column 3 line 26 to column 4 line 5, figure 1.	23-24, 56-57
X	US 5,089,813 A (DELUCA ET AL) 18 February 1992, column 3 line 65 to column 8, figures 4a-4d.	65-66, 73
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Y		70-71
Y	US 5,507,040 A (EATON ET AL) 09 April 1996, column 1 lines 49-68.	21-22, 54-55

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US98/25544

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
  
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Please See Extra Sheet.

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☒

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US98/25544

### BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING

This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-63, drawn to 11 different methods and apparatuses for conserving power in a pager. Group I contains 11 different species as listed below.

Group II, claim(s) 65-73, drawn to the detail of the pager for receiving messages in according to the message protocol having header synchronization segment, system information segment and address blocks.

This application also contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack Unity of Invention because they are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for more than one species to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid. The species are as follows:

Figs. 7-8 show the first embodiment where the special technical feature is the use of a header synchronization segment.

Figs. 9-10 show the second embodiment where the special technical feature is the use of system information segment.

Fig. 13 shows the third embodiment where the special technical feature is the pager operating in a reacquisition process.

Fig. 15 shows the fourth embodiment where the special technical feature is the pager receiving an address block.

Fig. 18 shows the fifth embodiment where the special technical feature is the pager in processing addresses.

Fig. 19 shows the sixth embodiment where the special technical feature is the pager performing power sequencing.

Fig. 20 shows the seventh embodiment where the special technical feature is the pager in scheduling search times.

Fig. 21 shows the eighth embodiment where the special technical feature is a continuous transmission paging system.

Fig. 22 shows the ninth embodiment where the special technical feature is channel synchronization in a paging system.

Fig. 23 shows the tenth embodiment where the special technical feature is the pager search process.

Fig. 24 shows the eleventh embodiment where the special technical feature is the extended low-power mode for low-traffic pagers.

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Figs. 7-8 - claims 1-2 and 32-33

Figs. 9-10 - claims 3-4 and 34-35

Fig. 13 - claims 5-6 and 36-38

Fig. 15 - claims 7-13, 39-46 and 74-75

Fig. 18 - claims 14-16 and 47-49

Fig. 19 - claims 17-18 and 50-51

Fig. 20 - claims 19-20 and 52-53

Fig. 21 - claims 21-22 and 54-55

Fig. 22 - claims 23-24 and 56-57

Fig. 23 - claims 25-29 and 58-62

Fig. 24 - claims 30-31 and 63-64

The following claims are generic: none

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Group I relates to different methods and apparatus for conserving power in the pager, while group II relates to a pager for receiving messages according to the protocol which contains header synchronization segment, system information segment and address block.

The species listed above do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: All 11 species relate to different methods or techniques (note 11 different embodiments) for conserving power in the pager.